



## KAT'S AMBITION

Actor Katrina Kaif, after venturing into beauty business, is now keen to expand her business profile with a wellness space

LEISURE P2



## CHINA TO RELAX LOCKDOWNS

China said it will take steps to "minimise" the impact of its Covid lockdowns, amidst the protests against Xi

INTERNATIONAL P10



## ALL EYES ON LEO

Argentina will be hoping for Lionel Messi to fire on all cylinders when they face Poland Wednesday

SPORTS P12

## 2 get death for 8-year-old's rape, murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 29: A POCOS court here Tuesday awarded death penalty to two persons for gangrape and murder of an eight-year-old girl under Tirtol police limits here in 2014.

The convicts identified as Sheikh Asif and Sheikh Akil of the locality. The court acquitted Sheikh Karim and Sheikh Abid for 'want of evidence', said assistant public prosecutor Dolagobinda Das.

About the case details, Das said that the minor was on way home with one of her cousins after buying chocolates from a shop in the locality when Sheikh Asif and Sheikh Akil abducted her.

The convicts took her to a deserted place where they took turns to outrage her modesty. They later killed the minor and dumped her body on the terrace of an under-construction house in the locality, he said.

The girl's family members found her body and informed the police. Tirtol police registered a case in this regard and subsequently, arrested the four persons.

Judge Ajay Kumar Mohanty awarded the punishment after examining the statements of as many as 27 witnesses, Das said.



ON WARPATH: Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) from across the state stage a sit-in at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, demanding a minimum salary of ₹18,000

OP PHOTO

## RBI TO LAUNCH RETAIL DIGITAL RUPEE DEC 1

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will launch the first pilot for retail digital rupee in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar December 1, and later expand it to nine more cities in the initial phase.

This follows a month after the RBI had started a pilot in the digital rupee - wholesale segment November 1.

The Reserve Bank announces the launch of the first pilot for retail digital rupee December 1, 2022, the central bank said in a statement Tuesday.

The first phase of retail digital rupee will begin with four banks - State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank in four cities across the country, it said.

"The e₹-R would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued," the RBI said while announcing operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency - Retail (e₹-R) Pilot from December 1.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements.

The digital rupee would be distributed through intermediaries (banks).

RBI said users will be able to transact with e₹-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones/devices.

Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M). Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations.

The e₹-R would offer features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality.

## Bedlam in House over teachers' stir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The state Assembly witnessed pandemonium for the second day, Tuesday, as opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress stalled the proceedings over the ongoing protest by thousands of primary school teachers at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg here.

As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30am, members of BJP and Congress rushed to the well of the Assembly and raised slogans against the state government for its 'anti-teacher' policy.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati pulled up a chair and stood on it to know the response of the state government on Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha's Monday's ruling on the teachers' agitation.

Notably, on Monday, Arukha had directed the state government to pay attention to the protesting teachers' demands.

Unable to run the House due to the noisy protest in the well, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly first till 11:30am and then till 11.45am.

Later, Arukha called an all-party meeting to resolve the issue adjourning the proceedings till 11.55am. When the House met at 11.55am, both BJP and Congress members targeted the state gov-



Despite knowing the problems faced by the teachers, the BJD government has not taken any action to resolve their issues. The teachers' agitation has jeopardised the future of students

MOHAN MAJHI | BJP CHIEF WHIP

The government is well aware of the plight of the teachers. And it'll take some decisions considering the financial condition of the state. So, I request the teachers to call off the protest and return to work

SASHI BHUSHAN BEHERA | BJD MLA

ernment for 'not looking into the demands of the agitating teachers'.

As School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash was not present in the Assembly, on behalf of Dash, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda said that the government is well aware of the

teachers' problem. "The S&ME Secretary already had a discussion with the leaders of the agitating teachers Monday. The teachers' demands are linked to some other departments as well and the government is looking into all these aspects," Panda said.

Continued on P4

## Shot in the arm for women SHGs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday announced enhancement of interest-free loan for the women self-help groups (SHGs) members from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

It will be implemented retrospectively from April 2022. The move would benefit around 70 lakh women associated with six lakh SHGs.

Describing it as a revolutionary step, the CM said that through this enhancement, the Mission Shakti groups can establish themselves as small and

medium enterprises. Lakhs of SHGs can take big loans to start big business, he said.

Patnaik said that women are playing key roles in the transformation of Odisha. "Today's decision will play a major role in empowering them and strengthening the local economy," the CM said.

Stating that the goal of the state government is to make Mission Shakti members small and medium entrepreneurs, the CM said that his government has taken initiatives to provide loans of about Rs 50,000 crore to Mission Shakti SHGs in the next five years.

MORE P3

## STATE EYES ₹6L CRORE INVESTMENTS

## MiO Conclave '22 to kick off today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The Odisha government is expecting to receive intents worth over Rs 6 lakh crore during the state's third flagship investors' summit— Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave 2022—which would be inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Janata Maidan here Wednesday, an official said Tuesday.

The conclave will continue till December 4.

Addressing a press conference here Tuesday, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said that over 11,600 registrations were received by the government for the conclave. The organisers have successfully managed to line up 124



speakers and schedule 38 events spanning all the conclave days.

"This is a massive initiative by the government where 22 departments have come together to plan and execute the conclave," Deb said.

As a build-up to the MiO Conclave 2022, in the last three months, the CM has led government delegations on roadshows to various metros across New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad in India

as well as in Dubai.

Some of the top industrialists who are expected at the conclave include L N Mittal, Executive Chairman, Arcelor Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Resources Limited, Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group, Naveen Jindal, Chairman, JSPL, T V Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel. Besides, representatives from partner countries of Japan, Norway and Germany will also grace the occasion.

"We're expecting to receive investment intents from about 100 big industries. This year, we're also expecting that we'll receive more investment than what we received in past two editions," Deb said.

## IFFI jury head's comments on The Kashmir Files spark row

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 29: It was about diplomatic ties, political sparring and Holocaust recalls Tuesday as Israeli director and IFFI international jury chair Nadav Lapid emerged the centre of furious debate over his comments on 'The Kashmir Files'.

A day after the director described the film as 'propaganda' and 'vulgar', Israel's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon said he had abused India's invitation and should apologise, while Israel's Consul General to Midwest India Kobbli Shoshani said the debate would strengthen India-Israel ties. Lapid's fellow jury member



Sudipto Sen distanced himself from his views.

The controversy also saw 'The Kashmir Files', panned and praised for its portrayal of the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits during militancy in the early 1990s, back in the news with the BJP and the Congress at loggerheads, several actors such as

Anupam Kher and Swara Bhasker weighing in with their views and a section of Kashmiri Pandits asking that Lapid be deported.

"As a son of a Holocaust survivor, I was extremely hurt to see reactions in India to you that are doubting Schindler's List, the Holocaust and worse. I unequivocally condemn such statements. There is no justification. It does show the sensitivity of the Kashmir issue here," Gilon said.

Gilon added that Lapid - who is viewed as an anti-establishment director - should be 'ashamed' as he had 'abused in the worst way' the Indian invitation to him to chair the panel of judges.

Continued on P4

## India's 100 richest got richer in 2022: Forbes

THE CUMULATIVE NET WORTH OF THE TOP 10 CLUB THIS YEAR IS \$385.2BN, UP 15.1% FROM 2021

AGENCIES

Delhi, Nov 29: India's 100 richest got richer this year, with their cumulative wealth growing to a whopping \$800 billion, according to the Forbes India's 100 richest list.

It was largely due to a record-breaking achievement by business tycoon Gautam Adani. After nearly tripling his wealth last year, the infrastructure tycoon doubled his fortune in 2022 to \$150 billion to become the new No 1—and also, for a while, the second richest person in the world. Mukesh Ambani, the oil and gas to telecom giant, is at No 2 with \$88 billion, down 5 per cent from last year. Adani and Ambani now account for 30 per cent of the total wealth of India's 100 richest.

Rank	Name	Net worth
1	GAUTAM ADANI	\$150 billion
2	MUKESH AMBANI	\$88 billion
3	RADHAKISHAN DAMANI	\$27.6 billion
4	CYRUS POONAWALLA	\$21.5 billion
5	SHIV NADAR	\$21.4 billion
9	WOMEN BILLIONAIRES ON THIS YEAR'S LIST	

Radhakishan Damani, India's retailing king who owns the DMart chain of supermarkets, broke into the top three for the first time although his net worth declined by 6 per cent to \$27.6 billion.

With a fortune of \$21.5 billion, Cyrus Poonawalla is in the fourth place, thanks to bumper profits generated from Covid-19 vaccines. This year, there are nine new faces, including Falguni Nayyar, a former banker who became India's richest self-made woman after listing her beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa, ethnic garments maker Ravi Modi and shoemaker Rafique Malik who listed Metro Brands last year.

Among the four returnees is Anand Mahindra.

# leisure



## BANDERAS THINKS TOM HOLLAND WOULD MAKE A PERFECT ZORRO

Hollywood star Antonio Banderas would love to have Tom Holland replace him as Zorro. The 62-year-old star portrayed the masked vigilante in the 1998 movie *The Mask of Zorro* and the 2005 sequel *The Legend of Zorro*.

## NEW ALBUM IS INSPIRED BY MY REKINDLED ROMANCE: JLO

Singer Jennifer Lopez, who has announced her new LP *This Is Me...Now*, told Apple Music 1 that the new record captures "Me at this moment in time when I was reunited with the love of my life. The whole message of the album then is this love exists."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesh approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

**TAURUS**  
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesh. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will be busy organising some religious function today or in visiting a place of religious significance. You will encounter expenses in religious and charitable work. However, you should guard against ignoring your daily work in pursuit of all these matters, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will labour more to finish pending tasks. You will give priority to career compared to personal chores. So you will be caught up in your career and business riddles. By evening, however, you will have cheerful moments as Ganesh sees you having cherishing time with your beloved.

**LEO**  
You will be able to meet all challenges and obstacles successfully. Your ultimate goal is to come out victorious from any situations. There is a possibility that you will have to face severe competition in business or trade. Personal life will proceed without any hiccups though, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Your renewed enthusiasm for life will bring about a radical change in you. Ganesh says today is a good time to let others see how important and how brilliant you can be. Your intelligence will become very evident as you demonstrate how things should be done.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will try to gain knowledge in new topics today. You will feel enthusiasm and a feeling of positivity today. You will show more interest when talking with friends and this will make you come closer to them. There will be benefits to you from your life partner. You will be happy to be in the company of a close relative today.

**SCORPIO**  
The ground beneath you seems a bit shaky; watch your steps. A time would come when your confidence would be shattered, however, don't let setbacks and failures affect you. Adapt the attitude of 'this too shall pass' and the rest would fall in place, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded will have its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are a die-hard romantic and with every plan to please your sweetheart, you are taking him/her closer to the cloud nine. But, don't live in fantasy world, warns Ganesh. As problems are going to follow you everywhere. If you are a businessman, your rivals may give you a hard time. Take proper care of your health, advises Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will remember this day for the rest of life as today you will make some important decisions and give a new direction to your life. You are in for a windfall and chery on the cake will be all the recognition and rewards you get for your sincerity and hard work, predicts Ganesh. These positive vibes will help you make sure that you are on the right track.

**PISCES**  
You will finally realize the worth of your resources today. You will take a decision to increase your savings and clamp down on unnecessary expenses. Your expenses are likely to increase temporarily. It is a good idea to invest in debt schemes today, says Ganesh.

## MALAIKA takes a dig at herself

**Mumbai:** Malaika Arora is set to make her OTT debut with *Moving In With Malaika*. The show will take the viewers through her life and bring across certain aspects of her personality which people aren't yet aware of.

In the first promo of the show, Malaika was seen slamming her trolls but in the new promo, she's decided to be even more real - to the extent of taking a dig at her own self.

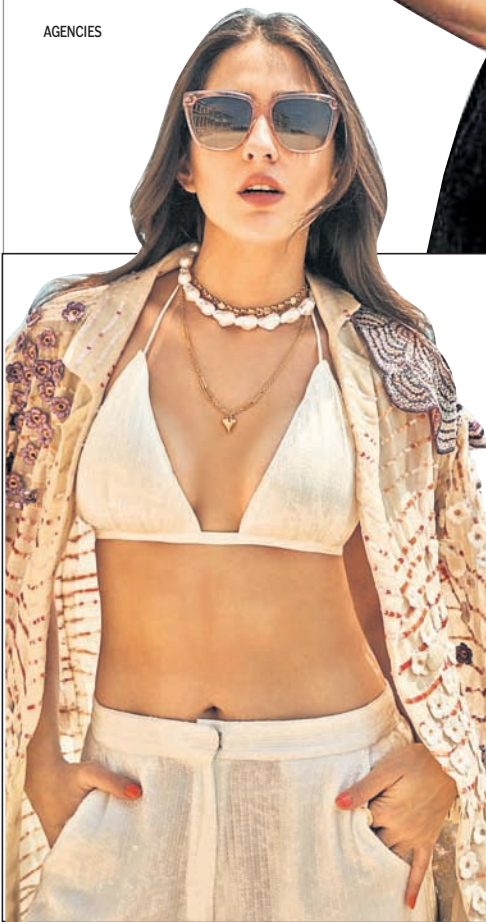
One can see a voice over introducing her as, 'top Bollywood female actor'. She stops and says, "Wait wait, top female actor? Housefull 2 dekhi hai na? Kuch aur bol do."

She's then introduced as India's most beloved celebrity. She also smashes that and says, "I get trolled for just walking!"

Then, she's introduced as someone who has gone through struggles and problems. To which Malaika says, "Malaika hoon, Malala nahi. Everyone knows my problems are first world. This is a reality show. Can we please keep it real?"

Malaika then introduces the show and says that it will get the viewers a chance to get up close and personal with her. Netizens are absolutely loving this side of the actress who's making all the right moves and also taking trolling with a pinch of salt.

AGENCIES



## Katrina to venture into wellness industry

**Mumbai:** Actress Katrina Kaif is adding another feather to her hat by turning entrepreneur and venturing into the health and wellness space.

The actress, who already has a successful beauty line to her credit, is reportedly keen to expand her business profile with a wellness line.

Kat, has already made

a name for herself as a health and fitness enthusiast, so this new venture comes as no surprise.

According to reports, the actress is apparently 'very excited' for this new business venture.

Besides Kat, celebs including Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan and many others have ventured into the fitness, lifestyle and beauty markets.

On the movie front, Katrina was last seen in *Phone Bhoot*. The actress is currently shooting for her next film *Merry Christmas* that is slated to hit screens next year.

Kaif will also be seen in *Tiger 3*, co-starring Salman Khan.

Emraan Hashmi says the negative lead in this action entertainer.

AGENCIES



## Payal's 'triple life' in Red

**Mumbai:** *Saath Nibhaana Saathiya* actress Payal Ghosh spoke about her upcoming film *Red* which also stars Krushna Abhishek.

She said: "Red is a psychological thriller and I play 3 shades of the role: a college girl, a wife and an escort. This was really exciting for me."

Payal goes on to share how she got the role: "Producer Rajeev Chowdhury offered me a role in his next film *Red* and I was really taken aback. After hearing the amazing script, I was really intrigued and said yes for the role. As my role was a little different from the ones I had done, it got me interested and then the rest is history of course."

Sharing her experience working with Krushna, Payal revealed: "It was absolutely lovely working with him as he is an extremely playful, jovial and cooperative co-star. Our whole unit was very friendly and it never felt like I was working."

"We are very happy with the way the film has shaped up and it looks very promising. The people who have seen the first cut are in awe and I'm getting lots of appreciation. I hope

even the audience loves it. I'm really looking forward to the release." The movie also stars Shakti Kapoor.

IAN5

## Sara to romance Tiger on screen for first time

**Mumbai:** Earlier this year, it was reported that actor Tiger Shroff will be headlining Jagan Shakti's big-budget action thriller. Buzz is that, Sara Ali Khan has also joined the cast as the leading lady for the film.

According to a news portal, the film backed by Pooja Entertainment, is a proper hero v/s villain story and the makers are also planning to rope in several actors to come on board as the evil force against Tiger Shroff.

Reportedly, the film will be shot in India and across Europe, as the idea is to make it a big-scale mission-

based film.

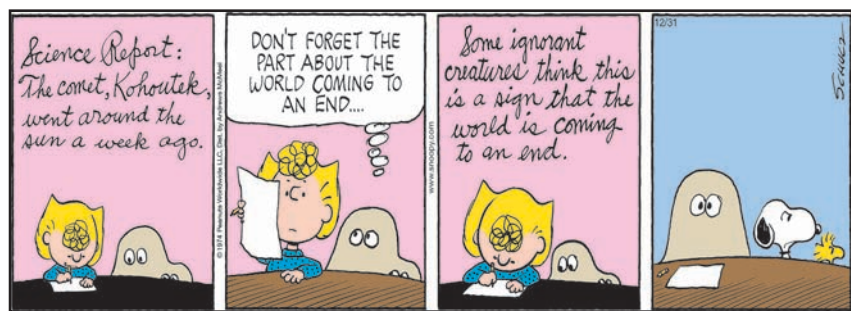
Prep has been going on for a while now and the makers were keen on having a fresh casting as well as an on-screen pairing. The untitled film will go on floors December 10 and is currently in its pre-production stage. Jackky Bhagnani and Jagan are also planning to take action to the next level with their stunt team.

The source close to the production house also revealed that, the film will have a theatrical release as it's in the zone of the big ticket entertainers.

The Jagan Shakti directorial will also mark Tiger and Sara's first time collaboration. The duo is extremely excited and is looking forward to working with each other.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

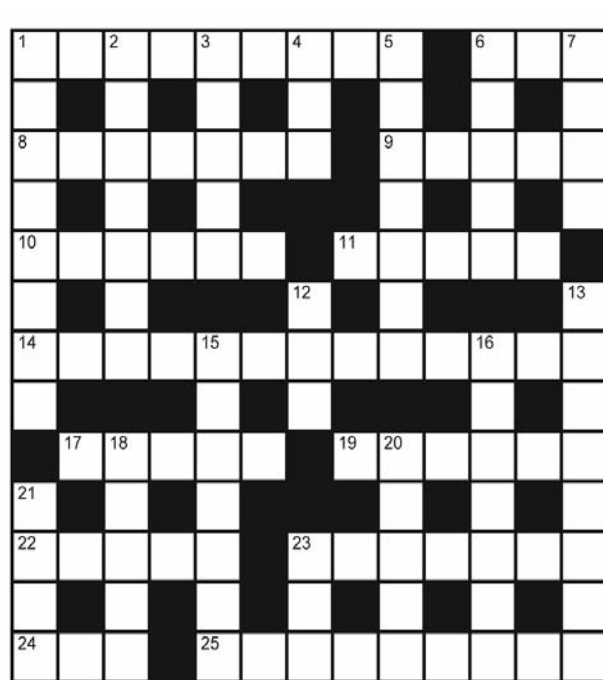


### BREVITY



### FUN post

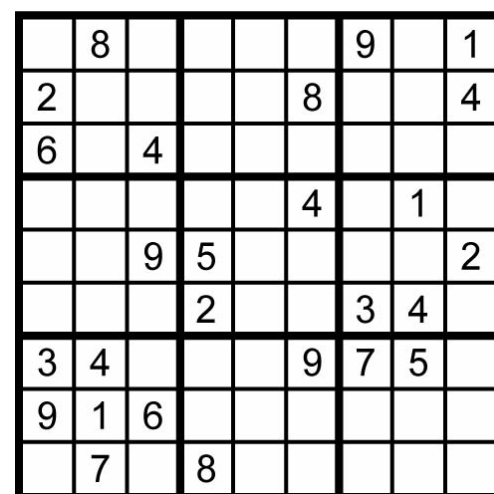
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright © 2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Flagrant
  - 6 Menagerie
  - 8 Type of drum
  - 9 Speck in the ocean
  - 10 Saws
  - 11 Secret store
  - 14 Food made from curds of soured skim milk (7,6)
  - 17 Small hill
  - 19 International agreement
  - 22 Fragrant oil
  - 23 Book character
  - 24 Future fish
  - 25 Pleasure
  - Down**
  - 1 Beguile
  - 2 Fabric leftover, usually
  - 3 Fairy tale figure
  - 4 Sculler's need
  - 5 Leafy vegetable
  - 6 Zero
  - 7 Word of honour
  - 12 Casbah
  - 13 Racetrack
  - 15 Loose, like a criminal (2,5)
  - 16 Hard rubber
  - 18 Saltpetre
  - 20 Platitudinous
  - 21 It'll grow on you
  - 23 "The \_\_\_" (Uris novel)

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

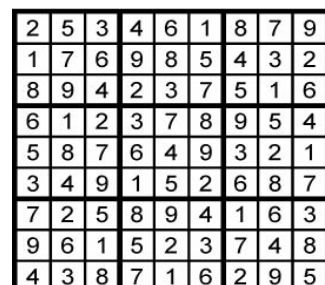


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU

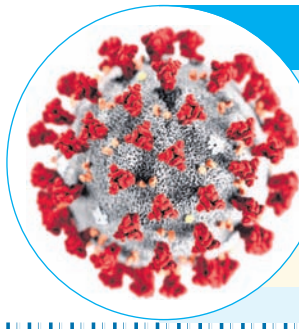


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**CULTURAL FEST**

Artistes perform Odissi at Saptaranga organised by Mrudugunjan at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,66,94,537	62,51,16,589	66,38,042
India	4,46,72,068	4,41,36,471	5,30,615
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# Interest free loans for SHGs enhanced to ₹5L

The state will provide loans worth about ₹50,000 crore in the next five years



**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday announced that interest-free loans for the women self-help group members (SHGs) has been enhanced to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 3 lakh. It will be implemented retrospectively from April, 2022 and this move would benefit around 70 lakh women associated with six lakh self-help groups.

Describing this as a revolutionary step, the Chief Minister said that through this enhancement, the Mission Shakti groups can establish themselves as Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). "The lakhs of SHGs can take big loans to start big business," he said. The CM said that women are playing pivotal roles in the transformation of Odisha. "Today's decision will play a major role in empowering them and strengthening the local economy," he added. Stating that the goal of the state

**IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, BUSINESSES WORTH ₹4,000 CRORE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO THE MISSION SHAKTI GROUPS**

**IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, LOANS WORTH OVER ₹17,000 CRORE HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED TO SHGS**

Stating that the Odisha government has been providing interest-free loan facilities up to Rs 3 lakh to encourage the Mission Shakti groups, Patnaik said that the government has provided Rs 500 crore of interest to the bank accounts of 4 lakh SHGs in this programme. Describing Mission Shakti as an innovative initiative towards women empowerment, the Chief Minister said that it has brought together 70 lakh mothers of the state through 6 lakh Self Help Groups.

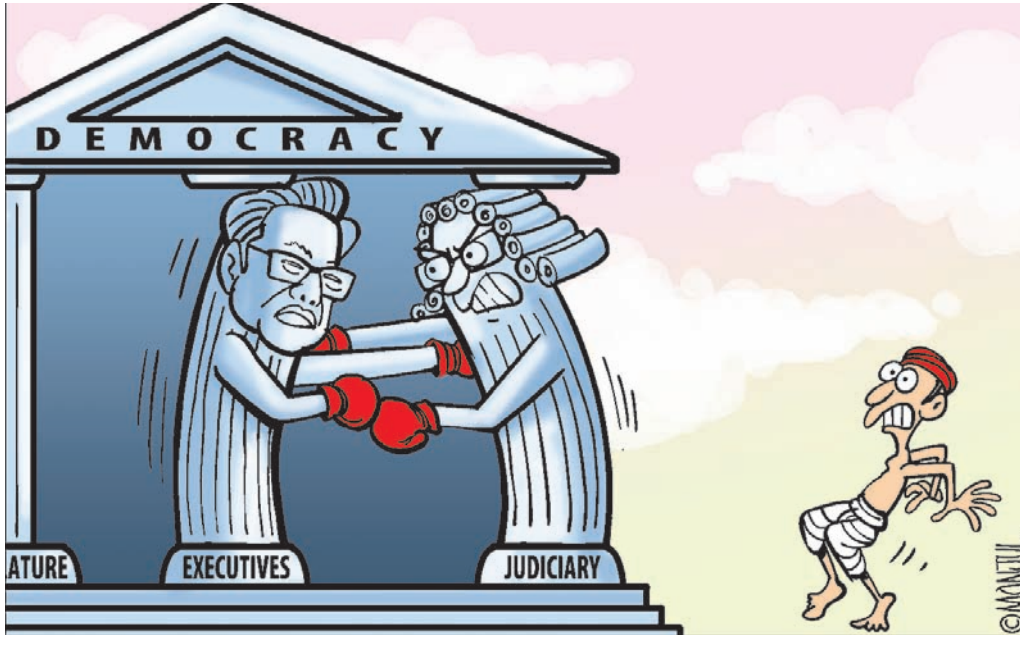
To take the movement further, the state government has set up a separate Mission Shakti department and all SHG programs are being implemented through this department, he said. It is worth noting that June 1, 2020, Mission Shakti department was established and all the SGH programs of the state were brought under one department. Promotion of WSHGs under the aegis of 'Mission Shakti' programme was adopted on the eve of International Women's Day in 2001 as a key strategy for achieving women's empowerment in Odisha. It started with an initial objective of forming 2 lakh groups in two years. By 2006-07, as many as 2,48,689 women SHGs had been formed and it rose to 3,14,646 by March 2017. The journey of Mission Shakti from a programme to a Directorate and subsequently to a dedicated 'Department of Mission Shakti' is a testimony of women's empowerment in the state. At a time when increased importance is given to innovation, technology and self-sustenance in the post-Covid era and economically weaker sections have been facing an acute loss of jobs and income, the SHG movement in the state has come a long way in pushing several families out of poverty.

## Youth held for taking pics inside Srimandir gets bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, Nov 29:** A 23-year-old YouTuber from Bangladesh was arrested here for allegedly taking photos of Jagannath temple's sanctum sanctorum on phone, in violation of the ban imposed on gadget use at the shrine, and posting those on social media, a police officer said Tuesday. A local court later granted him bail as the offence was non-cognizable in nature, the officer said. The pictures, uploaded by Akash Chowdhury on Facebook, went viral shortly after they were posted a week ago, sparking concerns over security at the 12th century shrine. A case was registered against Chowdhury, a resident of Bangladesh's Sylhet region, at Singhdwar police station here by the temple administration, the officer said.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL

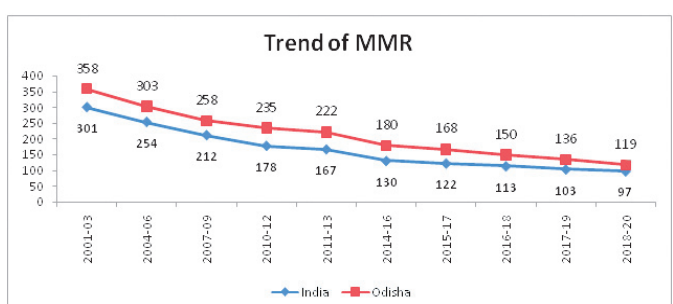


# State records 2nd highest point decline in MMR

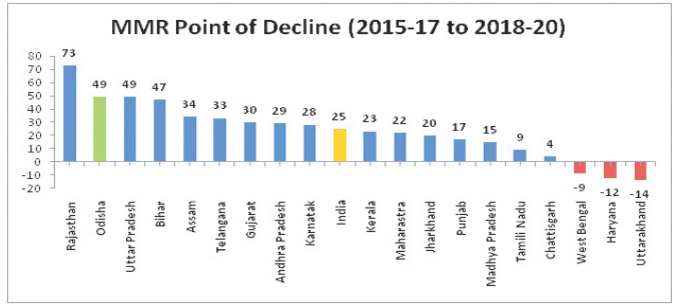
THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO HAS FALLEN 49 POINTS, FROM 168 IN 2015-17 TO 119 IN 2018-20

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** The state's relentless effort at improving access to healthcare has yielded result, as with a 49 points fall from 168 in 2015-17 to 119 in 2018-20, Odisha has recorded the 2nd highest point decline in the country in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), according to the latest publication of SRS MMR bulletin, 2018-20. The state's MMR currently stands at 119 per 1,00,000 live births. "Happy to share that with continuous effort in provisioning quality healthcare at all levels, Odisha has reported 2nd highest point decline in the country in Maternal Mortality Ratio with 49 points decline from 168 in 2015-17 to 119 in 2018-20", the State Health and Family Welfare department informed. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,00,000 live births during the same time period.



Graph plots the gradual decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio in Odisha from 2001-03 to 2018-20



While Rajasthan records the highest decline in MMR, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh both get the second place with 49 points decline each

While Rajasthan recorded highest decline of 73 points in MMR, Uttar Pradesh has also achieved similar decline as Odisha. Some other states included in the survey include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Telangana, and Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and others. Bihar, Assam and Telengana stand behind Odisha and Uttar Pradesh with of 47, 34, 33 points decline respectively. Gujarat recorded 30 point drop while Andhra Pradesh saw a decline by 29 points and Karnataka 28 points. Earlier, in May 2022, it was reported that Odisha reported highest point decline in the country in "Infant Mortality Rate" with 39 points decline from 2005 to 2020, according to the publication of SRS bulletin, 2020. The department had stated that "as per the latest publication of SRS bulletin, 2020, Odisha's Infant Mortality Rate, now stands at 36/1,000 live birth."

## Woman found on Puri beach cremated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, Nov 29:** A woman, whose disfigured body was found on Puri beach, was cremated Tuesday at the Swargadwar burning ghat. The deceased's father stuck to his allegation that the woman was raped and killed despite the police's claim that she drowned. "If she had drowned, how were her clothes found on the beach? Why were motorcycle tyre marks found on the sand near the body and if the body was washed ashore after drowning, why was it away from the water?" the father told PTI before leaving the pilgrim town. Asked whether the family continued to demand for a CBI probe, he said, "There is no need for a CBI investigation if Puri Police replies to our queries." Meanwhile, Sea Beach Police Station inspector in-charge Chinmaya Rout said that they have taken the matter "very seriously" but autopsy report shows that the woman died due to ante-mortem drowning.



**AIMING FOR A BIG CATCH:** A youth sitting with a fishing rod in his hands at the Jobra Anicut on Mahanadi, in Cuttack, Tuesday

## ED grills movie producer over Archana Nag case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Odia cine producer and former landlord of Archana Nag and her associate Shardhanjali Behera Tuesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in connection with the sextortion case. The movie producer, Pramod Kumar Swain, along with his lawyer reached the ED's office at Nayapalli in the morning. Swain told the media persons waiting outside the ED office that he was being blackmailed by Archana and he would spill everything after interrogation by the ED.

Archana and her husband had stayed at Swain's residence in Jagamara area under Khandagiri police limits here on rent for around six months in 2017. The black-mailer couple and the associate Shradhanjali used to stay on rent on different floors of the same building in 2017. "The Chand couple used to stay on rent at Pramiod Swain's residence for six to seven months in 2017. A case was registered with the police in connection with pending house rent of the couple," told Swain's lawyer. Archana had registered a case against Swain alleging mental and physical abuse by the latter in November 2017. She also accused Swain of forcing her to keep sexual

**ARCHANA AND HER HUSBAND HAD STAYED AT SWAIN'S RESIDENCE IN JAGAMARA AREA UNDER KHANDAGIRI POLICE LIMITS HERE ON RENT FOR AROUND SIX MONTHS IN 2017**

**ARCHANA HAD REGISTERED A CASE AGAINST SWAIN ALLEGING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE BY THE LATTER IN NOVEMBER 2017**

**SWAIN'S LAWYER ALLEGED THAT THE COUPLE WAS DEMANDING ₹5 LAKH FROM THE PRODUCER TO VACATE HIS HOUSE**

relationship with him, threatening Archana of showing some objectionable pictures of her to her husband. On the other hand, Swain's lawyer alleged that the couple was demanding Rs 5 lakhs from the producer to vacate his house. A case has been registered against Archana at Khandagiri police office over the matter as well. Swain was being interrogated by the ED sleuths by the time of filing of this report. Notably, Archana has been accused of amassing over Rs 30 crore along with her husband between 2018 and 2022 by blackmailing and threatening politicians and other influential people.

# State inks MoU with AIF to improve child health

**THE PILOT PROJECT WILL REACH 220 THOUSAND CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE AND 12 THOUSAND ADOLESCENTS IN 388 ANGANWADI CENTRES ACROSS THE TWO BLOCKS**

POST NEWS NETWORK



Foundation (AIF) to implement an 'Integrated Programme' in the Thakurmunda and Gopabandhu Nagar blocks of Mayurbhanj district. The MoU was signed in the presence of W & CD minister Basanti Hembram, commissioner-cum-secretary Subha Sharma at the W & CD conference hall. The signatories were W & CD additional secretary Nityananda Barik and American India Foundation Trust country director Mathew Joseph.

This integrated programme will strengthen the ongoing efforts of the state government by providing nutritious meals to children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years at Anganwadi centers. It will enhance the skills of health workers to help them provide quality home-based care to sick children. It will also ensure that children under 6 are ready for school, and train the head-masters and teachers to integrate sessions of mental health as part of school curriculum. This pilot intervention will reach 2.5 lakh community members, 20 thousand children under 6 years of age, 12 thousand adolescents in 388 Anganwadi centres across Thakurmunda and Gopabandhu Nagar blocks. Speaking on the occasion, Hembram lauded the department initiatives like augmented take home ration (THR) in the community-based management of acute

malnutrition (CMAM) programme for improving child nutrition, supplementary nutrition programme (SNP) for children under 6 years for promoting food diversity, and for using the mascot "TikiMausi" to spread awareness on nutrition. "The department is adding another feather to its cap by piloting the 'Integrated Programme for Children-Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Education' to strengthen the ongoing nutrition interventions. Providing hot cooked meals to children (6 months to 3 years) at AWCs would have an edge over existing interventions," she said. "This program would improve the nutritional status of malnourished children, encourage pre-school readiness in children, and promote mental health and well-being among adolescents," commissioner-cum-secretary Subha Sharma opined.



Bedlam in House...

**Continued from P1**  
Amid the noisy scenario, the House passed the District Planning Committee (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The opposition members, however, remained adamant and continued sloganeering against the government. It prompted the Speaker to adjourn the House till 4 pm. Later, Arukha adjourned the Assembly till 10.30am of Wednesday. Speaking to media outside the Assembly, BJP whip Mohan Majhi said, "Despite knowing the problems faced by the teachers, the BJD government has not taken any action to resolve their issues. The teachers' agitation has jeopardised the future of students." The absence of the S&ME Minister, who is busy campaigning for the Padampur bypoll, is unfortunate, Majhi added. Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said the state government does not care about the direction of the Speaker. On the other hand, BJD MLA Sashi Bhushan Behera said, "The government is well aware of the plight of the teachers. And it'll take some decisions considering the financial condition. So, I request the teachers to call off the protest and return to work."

IFFI jury head's...

**Continued from P1**  
The Kashmir Files, which polarised opinions following its release in March and went on to become a blockbuster hit, was screened at IFFI November 22 as part of the Indian panorama section. Indian film director Sudipto Sen, who was part of the international film jury, said the views expressed by Lapid were 'personal'. "Whatever has been said by IFFI 2022 Jury Chairman Mr Nadav Lapid about the film Kashmir Files, from the stage of closing ceremony of 53rd IFFI was completely his personal opinion," Sen wrote in a note shared on Twitter. Sen said he and other jury members, including Spanish documentary filmmaker Javier Angulo Barturen and French film editor Pascale Chavance, made no mention about their "likes or dislikes". BJP's Amit Malviya compared Lapid's condemnation of "The Kashmir Files" to the denial of the Holocaust. "For the longest time, people even denied the Holocaust and called Schindler's List a propaganda, just like some are doing to Kashmir Files. Truth eventually triumphs, no matter what," the party's IT department head said. His colleague, BJP's Goa spokesperson Savio Rodrigues, said Lapid's statement "is an insult to the horrors faced by Kashmir Hindus (in the past)". "You can critique a film artistically but to term the truth about the brutality faced by the Kashmiri Pandits propaganda is shameful," he added. Agnihotri said he will quit filmmaking if intellectuals, including Lapid, are able to prove that events depicted in his film are false. "I challenge the world's intellectuals and urban Naxals' as well as the great filmmaker who came from Israel if they can prove that any shot, dialogue or event of 'The Kashmir Files' is not absolute truth, I'll stop making films."

CHIT FUND SCAM  
Chargesheet filed in 334 cases out of 806

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, November 29:** The state of Odisha has informed the Supreme Court that it has filed chargesheet in 334 cases out of 806 cases registered in connection with the chit fund scam in the state and paid compensation to 2.10 lakh depositors to the tune of Rs 83.46 crore till date. Odisha filed a status report in the apex court on a petition seeking probe in multi-crore chit fund scam and compensation to depositors. The state government submitted that the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) as well as district police has registered 806 cases against the persons and financial establishments involved in unauthorised collection of public deposits and chit fund activities from 2011 to till date. It said that the EOW has registered 67 cases and the district police have registered 739

them, orders in 28 cases have been made absolute and the rest 55 cases are pending for adjudication in different designated courts, the affidavit reads.

"Substantial progress has been made in the proceedings against M/s Rose Valley Group of Companies, Hi-Tech Estates and Promoters Private Limited, M/s Rajadhani Systems and Estate Private Limited, M/s Golden Land Developers Ltd. & M/s GLP Developers Ltd. Numerous claims have been received against these financial institutions and many of their properties have been attached and sold," the state submitted.

The state government had created a corpus fund of Rs 300 crore in 2014 to disburse refund to the depositors. As many as 8.96 lakh claims affi-



cases against 280 companies. "Out of 806 cases registered so far, after completion of investigation final chargesheet have been submitted in 334 cases. Further, preliminary charge sheets have been filed in 269 cases keeping further investigation open u/s 173(8) CrPC. So far, 1403 accused persons have been arrested/ remanded. The trials are in different stages in different courts including designated courts under OPID Act and in the meantime 12 cases have ended in conviction of the accused persons," Odisha submitted.

The state government has also passed orders in 83 cases to attach the properties of 65 companies involved in chit fund scam. Out of

affidavits were received by the Commission of Inquiry, constituted by the state government in 2013, by the cut-off date of October 2013 and out of these 79,059 affidavits were found to be defective. The Commission took up 8,17,253 non-defective affidavits for digitization and inquiry, the state government submitted. Further, the CoI sent 4.88 lakh affidavits filed by small depositors to different districts for field verification to identify genuine depositors and their claim.

A two-judge bench of Justices MR Shah and Hima Kohli appointed advocate Gaurav Agrawal as amicus curiae in the case. The bench posted the matter for hearing December 1.



FOR BASIC AMENITIES: Boarders of Ravenshaw University staging a sit-in protest near VC office seeking fulfillment of their demands in Cuttack, Tuesday

ANGUL-SUKINDA RAIL LINE PROJECT  
ECoR-ASRL ink O&M agreement

The new rail line will provide a direct link between iron-ore rich areas of Joda-Barbil to steel and sponge iron industries in Angul region

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Operations and Maintenance (O&M) agreement of Angul-Sukinda rail line project was signed between East Coast Railway (ECoR) and Angul-Sukinda Railway Limited (ASRL) at ECoR headquarters, Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar Tuesday in the presence of ECoR General Manager Roop Narayan Sunkar.

Managing Director of ASRL, Dilip Kumar Samantaray and Chief Commercial Manager (Freight), HL Luang signed the memorandum. All principal heads of the departments of ECoR along with Additional General Manager, Sharad Kumar Srivastava and officials from stake holders were present on the occasion.

Angul-Sukinda Railway Limited, a SPV was incorporated by Ministry of Railway through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) for construction and maintenance of 98.70 kilometres broad gauge single railway



line between Budhapank Station (Angul District) and Baghuapal Station (near Sukinda in Jajpur District) in Odisha.

This new rail line will provide a direct link between iron-ore rich areas of Odisha (Joda-Barbil) to steel and sponge iron industries in Angul region. It also provides a shorter and congestion free alternative route between coal mining belts of Talcher to coal based thermal power plant in Kalinga Nagar industrial area at Sukinda. This new line will be in close proximity to the steel plants in Angul region, NALCO and a cluster of industries located in Kalinga Nagar areas of Odisha.

The project line will also reduce the distance between Rourkela (Steel Plant) and Dhamara / Paradeep Ports. Dispatch of finished products of steel plants from Kalinga Nagar complex to destinations in Mumbai and Delhi via Talcher-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda will also be shorter and cheaper via the new alignment as compared with the route via Kharagpur.

The 98.70 kilometres long project was sanctioned in 1998-99 and was incorporated in 2009. After the process of land acquisition and other technical solutions, the project of about 2440 crores has been targeted to be completed by December 2022.

SBI hands over ₹30l insurance claim



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Chandershekhar Sharma, Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI) and Souendra Priyadarshi, Commissioner of Police handed over a cheque for Rs.30 lakh to Swarnaprava Sahu, the widow of late Saroj Kumar Pradhan, Havildar, who died in an accident while discharging his duties. Pradhan had availed the Police Salary Package Account with SBI. The family members got the accidental insurance claim of Rs.30 lakh. This is one of the many advantages offered by the bank under Police Salary Package Accounts, Sharma said.

New OPD timing at Capital Hospital

**Bhubaneswar:** The Outpatient Department (OPD) at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar will remain open from 9am to 5pm with a lunch break from 1pm to 2pm, a notification issued by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said Tuesday.

MiO to host sessions on textiles and apparels

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** The third edition of 'Make in Odisha Conclave '22' is all set to be held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4 after a gap of three long years of covid-19 pandemic. Organised by government of Odisha, the most awaited global investors' summit of the year will see the gathering of several titans from across various industries, investors and other delegates looking to explore Odisha's investment potentials and maximize them.

As part of the Conclave, several sessions on various sectors will be held. One among six key focus sectors is Textiles and Apparels. With the purpose to showcase the

opportunities and potential of Odisha in the textiles, Apparels and Technical Textiles sector; there will be two sectoral sessions December 2 to promote the Textiles and Apparels sector: The first session on 'Textile and Apparel' will look at boosting the emergence of Odisha as the textile hub of Eastern India. The second panel discussion on "Sourcing of Handlooms and Handicrafts" will look at promoting and capitalising the global market potential of Odisha's traditional handlooms and handicrafts.

Following the sectoral sessions, a fashion show by Boyanika, in collaboration with NIFT, will take place December 3 to showcase the handlooms, textiles and apparels from Odisha.



The government of Odisha has made all possible efforts to make the conclave a grand success, said Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary to government of Odisha, Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts Department. "I urge investors in the apparel and textile including tech-

nical textiles sector to come to Odisha and see the ecosystem and the investor friendly policy support for potential investors," he added.

Ahead of the event, Shovan Krishna Sahu, Director of Textiles & Handloom, said, "With leading industry players from apparel, made-ups and technical textiles segments and representatives involved across the value chain of textiles manufacturing attending and participating in the deliberations, the sessions will witness the state government's commitment to the development of the sector."

The conclave will ignite to fill the gap between raw material production in the state to the finished product i.e. farm to fashion in coming years.

Youth can effect a new sustainable world: Garg

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Department of Water Resources Odisha and UNICEF conducted a one-day event of Youth4Water on 'Meet & Greet: Connect + Network + Collaborate: Ideation and achievement sharing session with youth on pani, swachta & climate change' with 30 youths of Odisha, Tuesday at Rajiv Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on this occasion, Anu Garg, Additional Chief Secretary Water Resources Department said that, "Youth, with their high levels of potential and motivation, are best suited to becoming the agents of change for a new, sustainable



world. With this in mind, the Youth4Water campaign has increased engagement in 'newer' areas such as adapting to climate change, mainstreaming gender and engaging the youths in an optimistic manner." Shipra Saxena, WASH Specialist at UNICEF India said, "We must amplify messages on climate change and make lives of children and youths better."

Perfectionism affecting teens' mental health, stress levels

Perfectionists are sometimes thought of as superheroes: people who are high achievers and seem to always have it all together.

The recent study, published in the journal Child Development, examined how perfectionism is affecting teens' mental health and stress levels during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Exact standards While research shows some forms of perfectionism are related to small achievement gains, it also reveals perfectionism is commonly associated with experiencing more health problems along with relationship difficulties.

People higher in perfectionism even show dysregulated immune system functioning.

Perfectionists do not fare better with respect to their mental

health. Research indicates perfectionistic individuals report higher levels of depressive symptoms, stress, disordered eating and anxiety compared to their less perfectionistic peers.

Perfectionistic people are particularly susceptible to experiencing these adverse consequences when they are stressed or faced with difficult and uncertain situations, because they tend to be unable to or at least reluctant to adapt to changing situations.

Perfectionism as personality trait

When measuring perfectionism as a personality trait, psychology researchers identify different "flavours" of perfectionism.

Socially prescribed perfectionism refers to the belief or perception that others require perfection. Individuals who are high in so-



cially prescribed perfectionism think others demand perfection from them, are critical of them and believe that they will never measure up to others' expectations.

These forms of perfectionism are commonly observed in teens,

a group that experiences relatively high levels of perfectionism.

Lack of closure, opportunities It is important to focus on how young people are doing during these difficult times. Unlike adults who have already gained their sense of independence, the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions have held teens back in a state of suspended reality.

For example, many teens have completely missed out on significant developmental milestones such as graduations and proms, leaving them feeling lost due to a lack of closure on important chapters of their lives.

Government-mandated lockdowns that were put in place to slow the spread of Covid-19 forced young people into isolation where they were often separated from friends and family for extended

periods of time. School closures also led to substantial interruptions to young people's schooling, which is associated with gaps in educational achievement.

Effects of lockdowns The study shows the significant effects lockdowns have had on the self-reported mental health of teens.

We assessed 187 adolescents' levels of perfectionism, anxiety symptoms, stress and depressive symptoms before the pandemic began and then again during the first and second government-mandated lockdowns. Results showed an interesting pattern of change with respect to depressive symptoms and stress levels. Depressive symptoms and stress decreased slightly from before the pandemic began to the first lockdown and then increased dramatically from the first to second lockdown.

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# Prestige fight for BJD as BJP eyes to wrest Padampur

CONGRESS IS OPTIMISTIC TO TURN THE TABLES THIS TIME AND KEEPS ON ATTACKING BOTH THE SAFFRON PARTY AND THE BJD OVER FARMERS' ISSUES



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bargarh/Padampur, Nov 29:** After the BJD tasted its first 'bypoll defeat' since 2009 earlier this month, the December 5 by-election to the Padampur assembly seat has become a prestige issue for the ruling party which is going all out to retain the constituency.

Buoyed by the win in the Dhamnagar bypoll November 6, the BJP is also leaving no stone unturned to wrest the rural constituency from the party.

The Congress is also optimistic to turn the tables this time and keeps on attacking both the saffron party and the BJD over farmers' issues.

In a bid to woo voters, all three major parties, during the ongoing campaign, are highlighting the issues faced by farmers of Padampur where 82 per cent of the residents belong to the agrarian community.

"Inadequate" minimum support price, "low" wage of kendu leaf pluckers, "mismanagement" in paddy procurement, and "delay" in crop insurance claim settlement and input subsidy payment for drought-hit farmers are among the farmers' issues.

Politicians are also harping on the issues such as the demand for a separate Padampur district carving out of the existing Bargarh and migration of local youths are also taking the centre stage in the campaign.

Accusing the Centre of neglecting the demand of Odisha people, the ruling party raked up the "shelved" Bargarh-Nuapada via Padampur railway project to target the BJP, while the saffron camp alleged that the proposed scheme could not be implemented due to "non-cooperation" of the state government.

"This particular by-election is extremely important for us as we have recently lost the bypoll in the coastal Dhamnagar segment. The party cannot afford another defeat before the 2024 general elections," a senior BJD leader told PTI.

As the cold weather approaches, the political temperature in the Padampur seat, located at the foothills of the Gandhamardhan hills with a vast cover of forest and medicinal plants, seems to be rising.

Addressing a gathering here Tuesday, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan targeted the state government and accused it of looting the farmers in collusion with the millers.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on farmers' issue, Pradhan said, "The Modi government at the Centre is allocating money for farmers. However, Naveen Patnaik-led government here is looting the farmers in collusion with millers."

"Patnaik had promised to provide ₹100 bonus. How much fund you have allocated so far?" Pradhan questioned. The Chief Minister

has never met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the paddy procurement issue, claimed Pradhan.

Union ministers like Narendra Singh Tomar and Ashwini Vaishnaw had slammed the BJD government November 27 over farmers' issues and other development work during the campaign for BJP candidate Pradip Purohit.

Similarly, at least 10 ministers and nearly three dozen MLAs of the BJD descended on the battleground to canvass for party nominee Barsha Singh Bariha, the elder daughter of MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha whose death necessitated the by-poll.

Both the BJP and BJD engaged their tribal leaders in the campaign as votes of the community are a key factor in the segment. Tribals constitute 29 per cent of over 2.57 lakh electors in the constituency.

Barsha belongs to Binjhal, one of the three major tribal communities dominant in the assembly constituency, while her two opponents are from the general category.

"The political cauldron is boiling again after 35 years of the 'Balco hatao' agitation. The fight of farmers and local people against bauxite mining in the 1980s helped save Gandhamardhan hills which bear both historical and mythological importance. Locals this time are determined to vote against the BJD for underdevelopment," said Pradip Purohit, the BJP candidate, a member of the Gandhamardhan Surakshya Yuva, a local organisation.

PCC chief Sarat Pattnayak and leaders Jaydev Jena and Niranjan Patnaik were seen electioneering for party candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu who had previously won the seat three times.

"Though the BJD government had announced irrigation coverage of 35 per cent of the cultivable land by 2010, nothing happened here," said veteran Congress leader Narasingha Mishra blaming the state government for the miseries of farmers. Migration of local people is "rampant" as they have "no alternative livelihood other than cultivation, he said.



**BIZ BOOST:** Artists danced to the tunes of famous Sambalpuri song 'Rangabati' sung by well-known singer Jitendra Haripal on the concluding day of 33rd Industrial Trade Fair-2022 held at Jajpur Road

## Traders in poll-bound Padampur call off bandh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Padampur/Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Traders at Padampur called off the 12-hour bandh in the poll-bound town slated for Tuesday following discussions with officials. The dawn to dusk bandh had been called after back-to-back raids a day before by officials of the Income Tax and GST departments at various places. By-elections to the Padampur Assembly constituency will be held December 5.

The IT department had Monday raided the residences of three busi-

nessmen of Padampur known to be close to the ruling BJD, while the GST department of the Odisha government cracked down on BJP-supported traders, in what some saw as a tit-for-tat raid.

A 12-hour bandh was then called by the local traders against the GST crackdown at Padampur, Paikmal and Jharabandha towns. One of those whose premises were raided by the GST department is Sunil Agarwal, the president of Padampur town unit of BJP.

BJD has denounced the IT raids amidst the intense campaigning

for Padampur bypoll. Senior party leader Sashi Busan Behera said, "The IT raids ahead of the by-election are not acceptable. IT had all the time to raid any place, but unfortunately did so now."

Meanwhile the police said that the income tax raids were held under the supervision of CRPF personnel brought from Chhattisgarh.

Notably, the BJD has fielded Bariha's daughter Barsha Singh Bariha as its candidate in Padampur against BJP's Pradip Purohit and Congress' Satya Bhusan Sahu

## Irregularities alleged in PMAY

**Pritipur:** Large-scale irregularities have allegedly been committed in allotment of housing units under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Binjharpur block of Jajpur district. Raising the issue of irregularities, local BJP leaders have submitted a memorandum to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. They have also attached a copy of the priority list of beneficiaries to the Central government. It was alleged that scores of people living under hatched and dilapidated houses in miserable condition are deprived of PMAY houses, while wealthy people and the families of government officials have managed to get into the priority list of beneficiaries.

## Idol stolen from Jajpur temple seized at New Delhi airport

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandikhole, Nov 29:** An 'Ashadhatsu' (an alloy of eight metals) idol of a village deity stolen from Jajpur district was recovered from New Delhi airport while being trafficked abroad.

The idol was identified as that of Goddess Kotrakhi, the village deity of Darpangarh under Barchana police limits. The matter came to the fore after the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) informed Jajpur SP Rahul PR about the seizure of the idol recently.

The idol was seized from the New Delhi airport a few days back, said Barchana IIC Sushil Kumar Nayak. After its seizure, a photograph of the idol was sent there. Smugglers were planning to export it in a cargo flight to overseas. However, they failed to do so as they did not have a no objection certificate (NOC) from the ASI.

## RAGGING IN VSSUT 3 students rusticated; 4 fined

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 29:** The disciplinary committee of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, has ordered the rustication of three final year students from the university and hostel premises after they were found involved in ragging of a second year student of electronic and telecommunications department, on November 23 night.

The victim was identified as Anubhav Kumar Khamari, a second year student of Electronic and Telecommunications department. The victim had lodged a complaint of ragging at Burla police station, the VSSUT authorities and the anti-ragging cell of the university.

Considering the gravity of the incident, the committee has ordered the rustication of three students for a period of one year. The accused students were identified as Manas Tudu, Pritish SR Panda and Shantiswaraj Rout. The order will come into force from January 1, 2023.

This apart, four students - P Arabind



Senapati, Ankit Mahakur, BR Swadhin and Biswajit Patel of second year batch-ment have been fined ₹5,000 each as they were present near the spot of the incident. The fine collected will be used in the up-gradation of Palsatya Hostel. They have been asked to deposit the fine at the authorities by December 15, this year.

According to the allegation, a second-year B-Tech student Anubhav Khamari accused some fourth-year students of ragging.

The victim said he was working on a project with some of his friends, on November 23 night. He had gone out to the hostel canteen at 10pm to buy some chips when a group of fourth-year students allegedly detained him and started abusing him. He was beaten and threatened.

## Kereng cloth, loom to get fresh lease of life

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Korapat, Nov 29:** A joint initiative was started to revive Kereng clothes which were once woven and widely worn by Gadba tribals living in various parts of Korapat district. The looms with which they used to weave clothes are in moribund state.

This will be a joint initiative of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Coats and the district administration of Korapat.

Functionaries of INTACH (Odisha), the handloom wing of ORMAS and ITDA have held detailed discussion with men and women of Gadba tribal community living at Kangarapada and Godihanjar under Lamtaput block.

INTACH chairperson Sanjib Hota, member AB Tripathy, an expert of tribal heritage and culture Anil Dhir and many other experts had visited Kangarapada and Godihanjar recently.

Notably, Gadba tribals living in Pottangi, Nandapur and Lamtaput blocks used to extract threads from fibrous barks of Kereng trees. They used to weave clothes by using the threads.



This practice had been going on for generations. However, for last several years, use of such rare traditional cloth and looms has been declining, said a tribal expert of Godihanjar. He said, "Almost all Kereng trees in nearby forests got destroyed in wildfires over years while scores of looms used by us to weave the clothes have broken."

A few months ago, experts of INTACH had conducted studies on the art, customs and culture of the tribals in Korapat. At that time, they came to know that Kereng clothes are on the verge of extinction.

They intimidated the head office of IN-

TACH, New Delhi about this and put forth a proposal for revival of Kereng clothes. Later, the proposal was approved by the INTACH.

Project officer of ITDA, Satyaranjan Mohanty said that efforts have been started at all levels to revive the moribund handloom and Kereng clothes.

Dipa Sisa, an educated girl of Kangarapada observed that extracting threads from barks of Kereng trees and weaving clothes with special handloom was going on for generations. "It is not a mere piece of cloth, but a cultural heritage that needs revival for a new lease of life," she said.

**UCO BANK** Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

**POSSESSION NOTICE** For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

RAYAGADA BRANCH/ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower : M/s. Milan Agency, Prop.: Mr. Milan Kumar Sahu, S/o: Mr. Trinath Sahu/ Guarantor: Mr. Trinath Sahu, S/o: Mr. Souri Sahu, Both are at Auto Nagar, Near FCI Godown, Rayagada-765001	₹ 29,86,313/- + further interest & other charges thereon	29.08.2022 / 28.11.2022	A piece of Gharabari Land alongwith the Building thereon situated in the Village & Mouza: Tumbiguda under Thana: Rayagada, Thana No: 146, Tahasil & Dist.: Rayagada, measuring from East to West: 30'feet & from North to South: 60' feet i.e. 200 sq.yards or Ac.0.041 cents, Khata No: 62/2372, Plot No: 7/365/407/606/2459 & Layout Plot No: 63, Bounded by North: Land of Vendor, East: Land of Vendor, South: 33' feet Road, West: Land of Vendor

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 29.11.2022 Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

**यूनियन बैंक** Union Bank of India

**REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR**  
3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751015, Ph. No.: 0674-2541936 / 2538502/26  
Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.com

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor)**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis" on 21.12.2022, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

**KHURDA BRANCH, NEAR NEW BUS STAND, DIST.: KHURDA, PIN-752055, Ph. No.: 9861822269**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) Mohammad Abdul Siraj, S/o- Abdul Rahim, (2) Rogdia Begum, W/o- Mohammad Abdul Siraj, Both are At: Saradhapur, PO/Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752056	₹10,03,088/- as on 21.07.2022 with further interest, costs and charges

Property No.-1: All that piece and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building in the name of Rogdia Begum situated at Mouza: Saradhapur, PS/Dist.: Khurda, bearing Khata No.: 375, Plot No.: 1300, Area: Ac.0.020dec., Plot No.: 1288, Area: Ac.0.140dec., Plot No.: 1297, Area: Ac.0.070dec., Plot No.: 1300 is Bounded by- North: Plot No. 1301, South: Plot No. 1298, East: Road, West: Plot No. 1299 and Plot No. 1288, 1297 are bounded by- North: Plot No. 1301, 1302, South: Plot No. 1289, 1292, 1293 & 1296, East: Plot No. 1298, West: Plot No. 1287. Reserve Price: ₹28,48,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹2,85,000/-

**SATASANKHA BRANCH, SATASANKHA, PIPLI BLOCK, DIST.: PURI, ODISHA, PH. NO.: 7684914453**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) M/s Santoshi Medical Store, Represented by Proprietor: Prakash Chandra Parida, (2) Mr. Prakash Chandra Parida, S/o- Late Vubala Charan Parida, (3) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Parida, S/o- Late Vubala Charan Parida, (4) Smt. Bilasini Parida, W/o- Late Vubala Charan Parida, All are At: Kumareswar, P.O.: Saraswatipur, Via: Balanga, Satasankha, Puri-752105, (5) Smt. Sailabala Parida, W/o- Satrugna Pradhan and legal heir of Late Vubala Charan Parida, At: Budhang, P.O.: Dimirisuna, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, (6) Smt. Mitanjali Parida, W/o- Prasanti Kumar Jena and legal heir of Late Vubala Charan Parida, At: Karamala, P.O.: Chandanpur, Dist.: Puri, Odisha	₹10,58,124/- as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, costs and charges

Property No.-2: All that piece and parcel of Land at Khata No.: 124, Plot No.: 471 of Area: Ac.0.014dec., Village/Mouza: Kumareswar, P.S.: Pipli, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752105, standing in the name of Sri Vubala Charan Parida and bounded by- North: Road, South: Hari Parida, East: Rama Pradhan, West: Pradhan Babu. Reserve Price: ₹21,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹2,10,000/-

**BID INCREMENT AMOUNT: ₹30,000/- (for Property No. 1) and ₹20,000/- (for Property No. 2)**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 21.12.2022 between 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension). e-Auction Website : www.msstcecommerce.com**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 29.11.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

FOCUS NATION

# CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY



The concept of constitutional morality has undoubtedly deeply entrenched itself and it will play a pivotal role in interpreting laws and issues relating to society, religion, customs and traditions

majority opinion, observed with clarity and strength of logic, in the judgement, "The term 'morality' occurring in Article 25 (1) of the Constitution cannot be narrowed down and be viewed in terms of what it means to be an individual, a section or religious sect. In case where there is a violation of fundamental rights, the term 'morality' naturally implies constitutional morality and the Constitutional Courts' decisions must be in conformity with the basic principles of constitutional morality that emanates from the Constitution itself."

Agreeing to and further strengthening the above majority view, Justice Chandrachud of the Bench, noted in his judgement, "Constitutional morality is not subject to fleeting fancies of every time and age, but is deeply rooted in fundamental postulates of human liberty, fraternity and dignity. Freedom of religion and likewise, the freedom to manage the affairs of religious denomination is not subject to and must yield to these fundamental notions of constitutional morality. In the public law conversations between religion and morality, it is the overarching sense of constitutional morality which has to prevail."

The then Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Attorney General KK Venugopal and even the former UPA Law Minister Abhisek Singhvi expressed their strong disagreement and concern over this judgement. While Prasad apprehended unfair consequences emanating from this 'vague and subjective' concept of constitutional morality, Venugopal apprehended "more dangerous" consequences and quoting Nehru said, "The SC may become the Third Chamber in future."

However, the concept of constitutional morality has undoubtedly deeply entrenched itself and it will play a pivotal role in interpreting laws and issues relating to society, religion, customs and traditions. Many more issues like the abominable practices like polygamy, halala, mosque-entry of women and female genital mutilation practiced by some communities, are yet to be decided. Let's hope that our judiciary abolishes these abominable socio-religious practices through the guiding and infallible principle of constitutional morality.

The writer is an advocate and columnist.

The term "morality" is mentioned only four times, in Article 19(1)(a), 19(1)(c), 25(1) and 26 of the Constitution, but nowhere the term "constitutional morality" finds any place in it. The concept of constitutional morality was coined and propounded by the British historian George Grote, and the same was borrowed by the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee Dr BR Ambedkar.

Being alarmed by the apprehension of a bleak future of Indian democracy due to massive illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and other historic factors, Ambedkar could find the beacon of hope in constitutional morality. Obviously, the chief architect of our Constitution had more trust on the unwritten spirit of the Constitution, rather than its letters. Thus constitutional morality is to the Constitution, what the invisible soul is to the body.

In his speech on the floor of the Constituent Assembly in November 1948, Ambedkar said, "There are moments when I think that the future of democracy in India is very dark, but I do not want to say that I have no other moments when I feel that if all of us put our shoulders together and pledge ourselves to 'constitutional morality', we should be able to build up a regular system in which there could be liberty, equality and fraternity."

Even though Ambedkar exactly mentioned the term 'constitutional morality', and the same was repeated in some debates of the Constituent Assembly, it has not yet been defined specifically. Even the judiciary has never discussed this term elaborately till recently, though it has taken the onerous responsibility to define, explain and apply it.

In the past, the judiciary had preferred to conform to social morality and wide spread public opinion while delivering judgements. Conforming to these social values, the Supreme Court in the State of Bombay vs RMD Chamarbaugwala case (1957) had adjudicated that gambling, a social vice, was not a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. In the Nashirwar vs State of MP case (1975), accepting the same logic, the SC cleared the path for the State to make complete prohibition of liquor.

In the Naz Foundation judgement (2009), the Delhi High Court made a significant departure from

this trend by rejecting public morality on homosexuality, and declared Section 377 of IPC unconstitutional. Then a two-judge bench of the SC reversed it, but lastly in 2018 a five-judge constitutional bench of the SC finally decriminalised homosexuality, but retained the criminal aspect of Section 377.

In the landmark Independent Thought vs Union of India case (2017), the Supreme Court struck down the second exception of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code which provided exemption of criminal liability of rape to a husband of his wife above age of 15, with the logic: "Constitutional morality forbids us from giving an interpretation to Exception 2 to Section 375 IPC that sanctifies a tradition or custom that is no longer sustainable." This judgement clearly discarded the prevailing social norm which considered women as a property of men.

In the NCT of Delhi vs Union of India case (2018), the Supreme Court made some improvements on the interpretation of constitutional morality, wherein it has been equated with the spirit of Constitution. In his judgement, the same Justice Dipak Mishra wrote, "Constitutional morality in its strictest sense implies a strict and complete adherence to the constitutional principles as enshrined in the various segments of the document. It is required that all constitutional functionaries to 'cultivate and develop a spirit of constitutionalism' where every action taken by them is governed by and is in strict conformity with

the basic tenants of the Constitution."

In the Joseph Shine case (2018) the Supreme Court, perhaps through one of its boldest judgements, struck down Section-497 of the Indian Penal Code and abolished adultery as an offence in a country like ours which is considered traditional and non-permissive, unlike the West. Justice Chandrachud (now the CJI) asserted in his landmark judgement, "It is not the common morality of the State at any time in history, but rather constitutional morality, which must guide the law." In the Triple Talaq case (Shayara Bano Vs Union of India - 2017) also the Supreme Court abolished this inhuman practice by tacitly basing the concept of constitutional morality, but did not mention it concretely in its judgement.

The Sabarimala case (the Young Lawyers Association vs the State of Kerala - 2018) is another glaring example of judicial tenacity and gutsiness in maintaining constitutional morality over social or even religious morality. The Sabarimala temple disallowed entry of women aged between 10 and 50 into the sanctum sanctorum of the famed Ayappa temple of Sabarimala, taking the plea of religious custom and tradition. The five-Judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI Dipak Mishra decided over this issue and held that such a ban violated the right to equality guaranteed under Article 14 and right to religion under Article 25 of the Constitution. Justice Mishra, delivering the



Jayakrishna Sahu

CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY IS TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHAT THE INVISIBLE SOUL IS TO THE BODY

## The Kashmir Files Again

The 53rd International Film Festival of India or IFFI Jury head's remarks in Goa at its concluding session on the highly controversial film 'The Kashmir Files' - have triggered yet another storm. The question that is subsequently thrown up is whether there is ample space in India under the current dispensation for free, frank articulation of individual thoughts and opinions that challenge the one-sided narrative of right-wing politics and its apologists on the screen or the stage.

Noted Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid, who headed the IFFI jury, called the film a 'propaganda' and a 'vulgar movie'. His words need to be closely examined as they were chosen carefully and deliberately. For, Lapid confessed he is usually fond of delivering speeches extempore and is allergic to reading out a written speech. Even so, he preferred a written text seemingly to pre-empt distortion of his words on an issue that might make him a target of a rabid vilification campaign.

Lapid was horrified to find the film included in the international section of the festival which is regarded as the 'front window' of any festival of high repute. He wanted to be 'precise this time.'

It would be a travesty of truth to impute any ulterior political motive to Lapid as a pro-BJP film director has sought to do, branding him as a pro-Palestinian Israeli Jew. His main concern was the artistic and social merit of the controversial film. That is why he thanked the director and head of the programming of the festival for its "cinematic richness, diversity and complexity." He explained the reasons for his serious misgivings about 'The Kashmir Files'. There were 15 films in the international competition which is always regarded as the front window of such festivals. According to him, out of them 14 had "cinematic qualities and evoked vivid discussions." But, he continued "we were, all of us, disturbed and shocked" by the 15th film, 'The Kashmir Files'. "That felt to us like a propaganda, vulgar movie, inappropriate for a competitive artistic section of such a prestigious film festival," he said in the presence of Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.

Lapid made it clear as well that he had no compunction to "share openly these feelings here with you on stage." His logic for such candid remarks is that "the spirit of having a festival is to accept also a critical discussion which is essential for art and for life."

Lapid is a filmmaker of high repute. He has 13 films to his credit as a director. His film - Synonyms - won the Golden Bear award at the 69th Berlin International Film Festival in 2019. Born in Tel Aviv, Lapid made his directorial debut in 2011 with the feature film Policeman, which won the special jury prize at the Locarno International Film Festival that year. In 2016, he was chosen as a member of the International Critics' Week's jury. His latest feature, AHEAD'S KNEE, was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last year, when it shared the Jury Prize with another film.

A prominent director of Bollywood, known for his leaning towards the BJP, has demanded stringent action be taken by the government against Lapid for his 'derogatory' remarks on the film. He even questioned the decision of the I&B ministry for selecting him to be the jury head. Minister Anurag Thakur made a clever move by tweeting the words of the Indian member of the jury, Sudipto Sen, who said Lapid's remarks were made in his personal capacity. None of the remaining members of the jury - American producer Jinko Gotoh, French film editor Pascale Chavance and French documentary filmmaker, critic and journalist Javier Angulo Barturen - have, till now, distanced themselves from Lapid's remarks. When Lapid read out his speech none of the jury members challenged his claim that he was speaking on behalf of all the members of the jury.

There is hardly any doubt about the political intent of including the film with the Gujarat Assembly election a few days away. It is likely that any praise of the film at the international section of the festival would have been used to polarise the electorate as the BJP is on a sticky wicket. But, Lapid has unwittingly poured water on it. Hence pro-BJP Bollywood elements are seemingly being deployed to vent their ire against Lapid despite his high credentials as a filmmaker of international standing.

As the BJP is on an overdrive to find ways and means to discredit Lapid, it must realise that not everyone can be counted on to sing praises only. Lapid, as a freethinking filmmaker, has thrown a tiny pebble and disturbed the beehive. All the bees now seem ready to sting him.

Sadly, while the party in power at Centre tries damage control by going on a counter offensive, India has been at the receiving end in recent times at international forums over issues of religious intolerance and persecution of minorities and critics. This impression about India will unfortunately last even when the hot seat goes to someone else.

### WISDOM CORNER

- I like to learn. That's an art and a science. **KATHERINE JOHNSON**
- I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy. **MARIE CURIE**
- Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow. **HELEN KELLER**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Dangerous

The Sun, a British tabloid newspaper, has a tradition of eye-catching but often xenophobic or provocative headlines, of which the most notorious appeared during the Falklands war, when it celebrated the sinking of an Argentinean warship with the one word "Gotcha!". They did it again, with a picture of the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, alongside the headline "IS THIS the most dangerous man in Britain?". It was over an article arguing that Blair, being a persuasive and plausible sort of chap, is trying to talk the country against its better judgement into joining European Monetary Union and so make us all adopt the euro instead of the pound. We all know what we mean by dangerous: something that's "likely or able to cause harm or injury", as my Chambers puts it. It's a plain word, with no possibility of misunderstanding. When Lady Caroline Lamb wrote in her journal in 1812 that Byron was "mad, bad and dangerous to know" she understood by the word then just what we do now. And yet, like so many, it has gone through several shifting senses down the centuries to reach its present unambiguous state. The parent word danger comes ultimately from the Latin dominus, which is the origin of a fine ragbag of modern English words that includes domain, dungeon, don, dame, dome, and dominion. The first meaning of danger in the thirteenth century was closely allied to this last word; it referred to the jurisdiction or power of a lord or master, particularly his ability to hurt or harm somebody. So the seeds of the modern sense were there from the beginning. The word was most commonly used in the phrase in (someone's) danger, meaning that you were in, or had put yourself into, someone's power. So in the Merchant of Venice, Portia says to Antonio during the court scene: "You stand within his danger, do you not?", meaning that he is at Shylock's mercy. A related sense of being liable to loss or punishment appeared in the next century; it turns up in the Authorised Version of the New Testament of 1611, though it was by then already rather old-fashioned: "I say unto you, that whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of the judgement". It was no more than a short step from either of these senses to the modern meaning of being in peril. Dangerous went through a related set of changes in its equally long history in the language. At first, it meant someone who was difficult or awkward to deal with, haughty or arrogant, almost the exact opposite of "affable": the attitude that would readily be associated with an overbearing lord or master in whose danger one was. Later it softened a good deal to mean someone who was just difficult to please before taking on its modern meaning in the 1490s. This derived directly from the then new sense of danger and, in fact, the first recorded appearance of both danger and dangerous in their modern senses occur in early printed works by Caxton.

### IN JEST THIS

## Money can't buy everything for Qatar



Melvin Durai

YOU CAN BUY A LOT OF THINGS WITH MONEY, BUT IT'S NOT EASY TO BUY GOALS

If you have even a passing interest in the 2022 FIFA World Cup, please spare a thought for the Qatar national team. They lost their first match 0-2 to Ecuador and their second match 1-3 to Senegal. Whatever the result of their final match against Netherlands, the host country won't qualify for the knockout stage. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, is perhaps realising what the rest of the world already knows: You can buy a lot of things with money, but it's not easy to buy goals.

FIFA, the governing body of football, is willing to sell a lot of things, but even FIFA has not figured out how to consistently sell goals. However, you can bet that a call was made from a Qatar official to a FIFA official regarding goals. Sheikh Fatar of Qatar: "Hello, my good friend. I heard you are driving a new Rolls Royce."

Al Wifa of FIFA: "It is the most

beautiful car. A million thanks to whoever gave it to me."

Fatar: "It's our little secret. We are very happy to be hosting a World Cup."

Wifa: "You earned it, my friend. The selection committee was very impressed with your presentation."

Fatar: "Yes, we presented them well."

Wifa: "You were very generous. But what can I do for you now?"

Fatar: "Well, I have a small favour to ask. As you know, we have spent more than \$200 billion on the World Cup. We have tried to achieve all our goals. We have not only built eight stadiums, we have paid thousands of fans to come to Qatar and help fill the stadiums. We have also hired fans from other countries to cheer for Qatar."

Wifa: "You could not find enough fans inside Qatar?"

Fatar: "They were more expensive. We also wanted them to look football-crazy."

Wifa: "So what can I do for you? I am willing to come and cheer for Qatar."

Fatar: "No, we have enough supporters. But you can help us meet our final goal: to score three goals."

Wifa: "Three goals?"

Fatar: "Yes, one in every match. We don't want to go scoreless. That would not look good for us, as the host nation. We have paid our fans to cheer, but we need to give them something to cheer for. I should also mention that the Emir will be attending every Qatar match. The Emir likes to see goals."

Wifa: "I'm sure the Emir will see goals."

Fatar: "Not goals 'against' Qatar! The Emir has seen plenty of those. The Emir wants to see goals 'for' Qatar."

Wifa: "So what can I do?"

Fatar: "Just get me the bank account numbers of your referees. And tell them that Qatar likes penalties."

Wifa: "But penalties are awarded only in the penalty area. Do you think your players will be able to get the ball to the penalty area?"

Fatar: "Hmmm... that might be a problem."

Wifa: "Maybe the refs can help with that, too. They can accidentally kick the ball to the penalty area."

Fatar: "Brilliant! You are a great friend of Qatar: That's why I have another favour to ask."

Wifa: "I am always at your service."

Fatar: "Can you arrange for some positive media coverage? There is too much talk about human rights abuses in Qatar. But what about all the humans who are not being abused? Why can't the media search for them? Are there any journalists we can pay to come to Qatar and write positive stories?"

Wifa: "Give me a day or two. Let me try to find a journalist who is lacking in ethics."

Fatar: "Ethics? What's that?"

### Serious concern

Sir, President Droupadi Murmu's concern, at the august gathering of judges from the Supreme Court and various High Courts on the occasion of the 73rd Constitution Day, at the plight of undertrials languishing in various jails for petty offences, with their family members unable to fight the legal battle due to penury is noteworthy. That the mighty and the rich, accused of serious crimes, roam freely as they can afford to pursue the available legal remedies whereas the poor spend most valuable years of their lives in the jails as they cannot buy justice, is worrisome. The appeal of the President is really very heart-touching. When the nation is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the pitiable condition of the hapless undertrials is a serious blot on humanity. They deserve a fair deal. Building more jails to reduce the overcrowding in jails is not the panacea to this disease. The present legal system needs to be lot more humane and progressive. And fast.  
**Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR**

### Hard-earned win

Sir, Brazil hardly resembled a champion side as they huffed and puffed to a 1-0 victory over a stubborn Swiss side at Doha's Stadium 974. With barely seven minutes left on the clock, Bruno Guimaraes flicked the ball onto Casemiro just inside the box. The Manchester United midfielder then unleashed a stunning volley that deflected off Switzerland's Manuel Akanji into the net. The win makes the five-time champions join France in the last 16 of the World Cup.  
**NJ Ravi Chandar, BANGALORE**

### Unite Congressmen

Sir, Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has had a fairly successful "Bharat Jodo Yatra". He has completed the southern and western parts of the country to move centrally. However, Rahul should also focus on keeping the Congress party united if his mission should have a far-reaching impact. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has called his bete noire Rajesh Pilot "gaddar" or traitor after Pilot took potshots at the "yatra". By targeting Pilot, Gehlot may want to send a message to the party high command that he is untouchable in Rajasthan and the party should not dare to throw his political opponents into limelight. But Rahul should be wary of party warmouths who can damage the immense goodwill created by his yatra. Small confusions in the party cadres should be cleared; there should not be scope for the BJP to take sarcastic aims at the party leaders who are hell bent on "Congress party todo" campaign.  
**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**Orissa POST**

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# national



In this year alone, 221 Tamil Nadu fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy. The repeated instances of arrests by the Sri Lankan navy are causing severe stress and anguish among the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu who are solely dependent on fishing

## HEAVY RUSH

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences continued to work on a manual mode seven days after the server was hacked and on Tuesday witnessed a heavy rush of patients



## of the day quote

If the AAP is voted to power, in Gujarat, businessmen will have access to cheap and free spaces with the help of the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation so that they don't have to pay high rent



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Bihar is a multi-ethnic state, where people belonging to different religions and sects live in harmony, and the government respects the sentiments of every community



NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

Our party has been speaking about Uniform Civil Code for thirty years now, there is nothing new in it. Now, in some states committees have been constituted regarding implementing it. I'm gathering information regarding the developments in various states, what the Constitution says



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

## KERALA GIRL GANGRAPED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 29: A 22-year old woman was allegedly raped by a bike taxi driver and his friend, when she had hired the service to get dropped at a friend's house, police said on Tuesday.

They said the incident is said to have taken place during the intervening night between Friday and Saturday, in the Electronic City Police Station limits.

According to a police source, the victim is from Kerala. "The woman had hired a 'Rapido' bike to go from one friend's house to another. On the way, the bike driver took advantage and has taken her to his place, where he along with his friend have raped her.

There was another woman along with them during the crime, who cooperated and then tried to hush it up," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, as the victim was suffering from pain in her body parts, she visited doctors for medical help on November 26 afternoon, following which the police got the information about the incident that evening.

"Police immediately registered an FIR and swung into action and have arrested all the accused. Also evidence has been collected from the spot with the help of forensic lab experts," he said, adding that further investigations are on.

# Govt move on scholarship affects OBCs, minorities



Earlier, the pre-matric scholarship used to cover education for grades 1 to 8 as well for students belonging to minority communities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Stating that the Right to Education Act covers compulsory education up to Class 8 for all students, the government has now limited its pre-matric scholarship scheme meant for OBC and minority communities to students of Classes 9 and 10.

Earlier, the pre-matric scholarship used to cover education for grades 1 to 8 as well for students belonging to minority communities. SC

and ST students are covered from classes 9 and 10 only on a full-time basis under the pre-matric scholarship scheme. The government, in a notice, justified its decision by underlining that the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child.

"Accordingly only students studying in classes IX and X are covered under the Pre-Matric Scholarship

Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Likewise from 2022-23, the coverage under the pre-matric scholarship scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs shall also be for classes IX and X only," the notice said.

The Institute Nodal Officer (INO)/District Nodal Officer (DNO)/State Nodal Officer (SNO) have been asked to verify the applications only for classes 9 and 10 under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The decision has drawn sharp reactions from political parties. Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala said, for decades, children from SC/ST backgrounds have been getting scholarships from Classes 1 to 8 but the government from 2022-23 has stopped the scholarship which is a "conspiracy" against the poor.

"The BJP has been continuously doing such things for the past eight years whether it was cutting the budget of SC/ST/OBC and minorities or it was about atrocities against them or ending their welfare schemes and now this. We do not accept this. We will run a movement against it. Immediately take back this decision," he said.

## Student gangraped by five classmates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 29: In a shocking incident, a Class 10 girl was allegedly-gangraped by five of her classmates and also blackmailed by video recording of the sexual assault under Hayathnagar police station limits on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Though the sexual assault happened in August, it came to light now with the parents of the victim approaching police. The accused recorded the sexual assault on their mobile phones and threatened the girl that if she revealed this to anybody, they would upload the video on social media. Ten days later, they again sexually assaulted the girl by blackmailing her.

The accused allegedly shared the video on social media and when the parents came to know about it, they lodged a complaint with the police. The police have booked five students, all minors, under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.



US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division with Indian Army soldiers participate in a target kill exercise during India-US joint exercise or 'Yudh Abhyas', at Auli in Uttarakhand

# Adding more judges not the answer: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain a PIL that sought a direction to the Centre and all states to double the number of judges in subordinate judiciary and high courts to effectively tackle the pendency of cases, saying such "populist" and "simplistic" measures cannot be the solution.

"Adding more judges is not the answer," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha orally observed which prompted lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay to withdraw his PIL.



Merely adding more judges is not the answer, you need good judges, the CJ said. The moment Upadhyay commenced his submissions, the bench said that these populist measures and simplistic solutions were unlikely to resolve the issue.

The CJ said that the Allahabad High Court, which is unable to fill its existing 160 sanctioned posts, should have 320 posts as per the PIL

The CJ said that the Allahabad High Court, which is unable to fill its existing 160 sanctioned posts, should have 320 posts as per the PIL. "It is difficult to fill the 160 seats in Allahabad High Court and you are asking for 320. Have you been to the

Bombay High Court? Not even a single judge can be added there because there is no infrastructure. Adding more judges is not the answer," the CJ said, adding that the lawyer must be ready to pay the cost of filing such a petition with no detailed study on the subject.

The lawyer then referred to the report of the law commission to buttress his submissions that to deal with the pendency of around five crore cases in the country, the judge-population ratio has to be enhanced substantially. He then referred to the instance of the US where the judge-population ratio is far better than in India.

# 'Long chill' in jail: Himachal cops caution drug users

According to the state police, a total of 1,732 persons were arrested in 1,195 NDPS cases in 2022 till October-end. The cops have so far seized 274 kgs charas, 31 kgs opium, 306 kgs poppy husk, 164 kgs ganja, smack and cocaine, 79 kgs of heroin (chitta) and 30,152 capsules and tablets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 29: Those who intend to get high on drugs, will be made to "chill" in jail, is the cheeky message of the Himachal Pradesh Police, which is leveraging social media to caution youths against the menace of drugs.

"Winters have set in Himachal Pradesh. Jails in Himachal are extremely cold now, thinking of getting high on drugs, police welcome you for a long term chill in our prisons," is the message of

Himachal police to drug users. With 99k followers on its Facebook account, the Hill state police is using social media including Twitter and Instagram to spread awareness against drug use. Police across districts are also sharing information regarding arrests and seizure in NDPS cases on their Facebook accounts to strike fear among the drug peddlers and addicts.

The idea is to come up with "short and crisp messages" to sensitise people on drug abuse, a police officer said. Another such post involved



a photograph that showed the word "drugs" in handcuffs, captioned with a message "says yes to life, no to drugs."

The social media approach has

received good responses, not only on drugs but also on road safety, cyber crime, and other important issues, highly placed officers in the police department said.

# BJP MP's car crushes 9-year-old boy in UP



A case has been registered against unknown persons under 279 (rash and negligent driving) and 304A (causing death by a rash and negligent act) of the Indian Penal Code, circle officer (Basti Sadar) Alok Prasad said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Basti, (UP), Nov 29: A 9-year-old boy died allegedly after being run over by Bharatiya Janata Party MP Harish Dwivedi's car in Basti, the police said Tuesday.

According to a complaint filed by Shatrughan Rajbhar, the father of the deceased boy - Abhishek -- the accident occurred on Saturday near the Hardiya intersection when he was returning from school along with other children, they said.

Just as the children reached a petrol pump, Abhishek was hit by a white SUV belonging to Dwivedi, the police said quoting the complaint. Rajbhar in his complaint said that two white-colored vehicles were coming from Manauri side and one of them hit

the boy, they said.

A case has been registered against unknown persons under 279 (rash and negligent driving) and 304A (causing death by a rash and negligent act) of the Indian Penal Code, circle officer (Basti Sadar) Alok Prasad said.

The child was admitted to a district hospital from where he was referred to Lucknow but succumbed to injuries while on his way to the hospital, they said.

The father said that despite being in such a responsible position, the MP left the child suffering on the road. He did not feel the need to get down of the car and take him to a hospital. Dwivedi was unavailable for comment as his staff said that he was busy in some organisational meeting in Bihar.

# Show of unity ahead of Bharat Jodo Yatra



'Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot have assured that the yatra (Rajasthan phase) will be the one of the most successful in the country. I am also sure that Rajasthan will also be the number 1 state,' Venugopal said in Jaipur

Sachin Pilot said the Bharat Jodo Yatra was getting huge support, and lakhs of people from all classes will associate with it in the state. The yatra will enter Rajasthan in Jhalawar and will cut across the state in about 15 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 29: In a show of unity days after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called his former deputy Sachin Pilot a "traitor", the two leaders seemed to put their power tussle on hold as they appeared together before the cameras.

"This is the Rajasthan Congress," All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary said at a press conference where he held the hands of both leaders. The Congress leaders were talking to reporters after participating in a meeting on preparations for the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, scheduled to enter Congress-run Rajasthan on December 4.

Venugopal recalled former party president Rahul Gandhi's remarks in Indore Monday when he said both Gehlot and Pilot are assets to the party. Gandhi had been asked about Gehlot's "traitor" remark that had seemed to queer the pitch for the Rajasthan phase of the yatra led by him.

"Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot have assured that the yatra (Rajasthan phase) will be the one of the most successful in the country. I am also sure that Rajasthan will also be the number 1 state," Venugopal told reporters in Jaipur.

And senior party leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "The Congress in the state is united and determined to ensure that it will be an outstanding success. And indeed it will be!" Earlier, while going into the meeting, Gehlot too had recalled Rahul Gandhi's remarks. "When Rahul Gandhi has said that our leaders are assets, then we are assets... Where is the dispute then," the CM said. "This

is the beauty of our party that after our top leader says anything, there is no scope (for further argument)," he said.

Last week, Gehlot told NDTV that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) who cannot replace him as CM as he had revolted against the Congress in 2020, and tried to topple the state government. In response, Pilot said such "mud-slinging" would not help.

On leaders making statements against each other despite a party advisory, Venugopal said he has asked for a report on this from the state party chief. "We will take this up separately," he added. He said the people of the country have seen the real face of Rahul Gandhi, but a demoralised BJP was spreading lies about his yatra.

"We are very much united. Here, Ashok ji and Sachin ji both have already said the Congress is united in Rajasthan," he said. Venugopal said the yatra will not be a short term event, and the party will unitedly fight the next elections and win.

Pilot said the Bharat Jodo Yatra was getting huge support, and lakhs of people from all classes will associate with it in the state. The yatra will enter Rajasthan in Jhalawar and will cut across the state in about 15 days. Ahead of this, Pilot's supporters seemed to have renewed their demand to replace Gehlot with Pilot as the chief minister.

"The BJP is worried because of the yatra. There is great enthusiasm among people to welcome the yatra to Rajasthan," the former deputy CM said. Pilot lost this post and was also sacked as the state Congress president after the 2020 rebellion against Gehlot by a group of Congress MLAs led by him.

# J&K polls: Abstract, emotional promises won't acquire votes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Nov 29:** The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A have changed the political landscape of J&K as well as the hard realities on the ground.

For 70 long years, politics has remained mainly a regional monopoly. Pro-Kashmir mainstream political parties, whether the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) or even the independent candidates, have thrived on local aspirations.

Interestingly, the poll campaigns of all the local mainstream political parties have focused on keeping the emotional and constitutional distance between Delhi and Srinagar alive.

NC and the PDP, in fact, fought two elections in the state by promising to consolidate the distance between Delhi and Srinagar, the former by promising internal autonomy and the latter promising self-rule.

Other political parties like the Peoples Conference (PC) had their own vision document to safeguard the special status of the state.

Except for the Jana Sangh, which was later named as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), all other political parties advocated the continuation of the special status.

Surprisingly, the centrist Congress also played ball with the local mainstream political parties during the elections by promising not to disturb the state's special

ALL ABSTRACT ASSURANCES ON AUTONOMY, SELF-RULE, BANNING OUTSIDERS FROM LAND RIGHTS ETC. HAVE LOST THEIR MEANING

POLITICAL PARTIES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR WILL NOW HAVE TO THINK OF ACHIEVABLE PROMISES TO LURE VOTERS DURING THE FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

position in the union.

Now that all that has changed, the local mainstream political parties have least chances of playing on the emotional chord of their voters.

Autonomy, self-rule, vision documents etc. on furthering and safeguarding the special status have become things of the past after August 5, 2019 when J&K lost its special status along with the statehood.

The post 2019 political discourse will have to focus on people-friendly, achievable promises of jobs for thousands of educated, unemployed youth, setting up industries, expanding the hospitality sector, better roads, decongesting the two cities of Jammu and Srinagar and better availability of healthcare, primary education and electricity.

The restoration of Article 370 is a matter pending with the Supreme Court and on this issue, the apex court's verdict would be the last word.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



SHOPPING TIME: People buy dried vegetables (Hokh Syun) on a cold and cloudy day, at a market in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

# Srinagar records coldest night at minus 2.2°Celsius

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Nov 29:** Weather was dry in Jammu and Kashmir during the last 24 hours with Srinagar recording the coldest night of the season so far Tuesday at minus 2.2.

The Meteorological (MeT) office said that dry, cold weather with hazy mornings was expected during the next 24 hours. "At minus 2.2, Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season so far," an official of the MeT department said, adding that dry, cold weather with hazy mornings was expected in J&K and Ladakh during the next 24 hours. Srinagar had minus 2.2, Pahalgam minus 4.2 and Gulmarg minus 1.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Drass town in Ladakh had minus 12.1, Kargil minus 11 and Leh minus 8.6 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu had 9.8, Katra 9.4, Batote 5.1, Banihal 2.4 and Bhandarwah 2.8 as the minimum temperature.

# Hybrid terrorism, radicalisation biggest threat

More than 300 terrorists are active in Jammu and Kashmir that includes 82 foreign terrorists and 53 local terrorists

AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Nov 29:** While there is no let-up in anti-terrorist operations across Kashmir to eliminate the militants and their commanders, a concerted effort is also being made to end the ecosystem that supports terrorists.

Security forces have conducted many successful anti-terror operations. The number of local and foreign terrorists in Kashmir is in two digits and active terrorists in South Kashmir, which has remained a hub of terrorism, are at a record low. More than 300 terrorists are active in Jammu and Kashmir that includes 82 foreign terrorists and 53 local terrorists.

In Kashmir hybrid terrorism has emerged as a big challenge



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

for the security forces. Hybrid terrorists are not categorised as terrorists but radicalised youth who after carrying out an act of terrorism return to normal life and normal activities.

Hybrid terrorists have carried out several terrorist attacks on security forces and non local workers in Kashmir.

During a security review with top security officials on November 23, Jammu and Kashmir Director

General of Police Dilbag Singh directed the officers to review their action plans and take immediate steps to neutralise the terrorists.

He said hybrid terrorists need to be taken down and informed that over 100 modules of hybrid terrorists have been smashed.

But while the security forces have been keeping up the pressure on terrorists efforts are being made to check radicalisation and prevent the youth from drifting to-

## 'Youth Empowerment Centre' in Jammu

**Jammu:** The Army Tuesday facilitated the establishment of a 'Youth Empowerment Centre' here with the twin objective of conducting skill development courses and de-addiction drives to promote awareness against drug abuse, a defence spokesman said. The centre at Gangyal on the outskirts of the city was set up in coordination with civil administration through Jammu Municipal Corporation to raise awareness against drug abuse and facilitate constructive engagement of youth, the spokesman said. He said the centre was inaugurated by Commander Tiger Artillery brigade of the Tiger division of Army Rising Star Corps, Brig N R Pandey along with Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, Deputy Mayor, JMC, Baldev Singh Billawaria and other civil dignitaries in presence of locals including youth.

wards terrorism. In a media interaction on November 22, the General Officer Commanding Lt. General Upendra Diwedi informed that 35 per cent of the terrorist recruits are less than 20 years old while 55 per cent are between 20 to 30 years.

He said the focus should be on education and upbringing of the youth and they must be given a chance to go to good schools and other parts of the country to see what is happening there.

"Keeping that in view we have

sent 1,800 students from Jammu and Kashmir to other states for education," he said.

But even as winter has set in and snow has closed the passes for infiltration along the LoC, according to inputs, there are still 160 terrorists on the launch pads across the LoC waiting to cross into Indian territory.

Clearly blocking infiltration and tackling terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir are the biggest challenges for the security forces.

# KPs have no voice in power play

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, Nov 29:** The Assembly elections, as and when they are held in Jammu and Kashmir, do not have much significance for the beleaguered Kashmiri Pandit community. Their scattered population hardly counts in the vote arithmetic of the now defunct state.

Forced out of Kashmir, the community of over seven lakhs has shrunk to a few lakhs in the Union Territory with a major concentration in Jammu and a nominal presence in Kashmir, the place of their origin. Most of the community members are living in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru and other parts of the country and



in other countries also. The scattering has totally reduced the community's significance in the political power play.

Before the 1989-1990 terror onslaught, the community had a sizeable presence in pockets of all Kashmir districts with a major concentration in Srinagar. Their leaders were given space in the political set up and were made ministers as well. The major political

parties, the National Conference and the Congress, had good representations from the minority community. Late Pyarelal Handoo was a minister in the Farooq Abdullah government and was an MP in the ninth Lok Sabha.

Khem Lata Wakhlou held important political positions in the National Conference, the Awami National Conference and later in the Congress. She also served as a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for 12 years and was the state minister of tourism from 1984 to 1986. She was the chairperson of the state's social welfare board with the status of a minister of cabinet rank from 2010 to 2014.

# WB begins process of repealing Fisheries Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Nov 29:** The process of repealing the 133-year-old Private Fisheries Protection Act was started in the West Bengal Assembly Monday.

Fisheries Minister Biplab Roy Chowdhury tabled a new Bill, which he said, would safeguard the owner's rights against fish theft.

The old Act will be revoked after the new Bill, the Private Fisheries Protection (Repealing) Bill 2022, is discussed and passed in the

Assembly during the ongoing winter session and receives the Governor's nod.

As per the provisions of the new Bill, those found stealing fish from a private fishery will have to pay a sum of Rs 50 for the first offence, while a repeat offence will invite one-month imprisonment or Rs 200 as a fine or both if convicted. The word 'private water' means "waters which are the exclusive property of any person or in which any person has an exclusive right of a fishery", as mentioned in the draft of the Bill.

# Ruckus in WB Assembly



BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul with party MLAs raises slogans during a demonstration after they stage a walkout from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly during ongoing Winter Session in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 29:** West Bengal assembly witnessed yet another ruckus Tuesday after Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay refused to admit an adjournment motion brought by BJP seeking discussion on some derogatory remarks made by Trinamool Congress MLA Sabitri Mitra about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

At a public meeting at Ratua in Malda district Sunday, Trinamool Congress legislator from Manikchak assembly constituency, Sabitri Mitra described the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister as Duryodhana and Dushasana.

In the meeting, she also made a comment claiming that the state Gujarat has no contribution in the Indian freedom movement.

On Tuesday, the BJP legislators moved an adjournment motion within the House seeking discussions on such comments by the ruling party MLA about the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister. However, the Speaker refused to admit the motion claiming that the matter was not related to West Bengal.

BJP legislator and fashion designer-turned-politician, Agnimitra Paul raised a counter question on how derogatory comments about the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister were not a state-related affair. However, the Speaker stuck to his stand and refused to

## At a public meeting, TMC legislator Sabitri Mitra described the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister as Duryodhana and Dushasana

admit the motion. This prompted the BJP supporters to protest within the House raising slogans. Some of the ruling party MLAs including some state ministers like Chandrima Bhattacharya and Sashi Panja were seen entering into heated conversation with the opposition party MLAs. Finally, the BJP legislators staged a walkout from the House in protest.

Later, the Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Suwendu Adhikari told media persons that it is quite strange the derogatory remarks by a ruling party MLA about the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister were not taken seriously. This is the fourth time that adjournment motions brought by the BJP legislators during the ongoing winter session of the assembly were not admitted by the Speaker.

Adhikari has already informed that BJP's legislative party might move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker in the next budget session of the assembly next year.

# Results of post-2019 investments in J&K to be visible by next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Nov 29:** The fruits of business investments and industries brought into Jammu and Kashmir after 2019 will be visible by the next year, even as the administration is working to achieve a target of securing investments worth Rs 75,000 crore, a top government officer said.

Till now, the erstwhile state has received investment proposals worth Rs 56,867 crore and this is expected to generate more than 2.62 lakh jobs for the youth in the coming times, said the officer who did not wish to be named.

The special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked with the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019 and it was divided into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"The Union Territory of J&K has also attracted a lot of interest from foreign investors and this can be pegged at about Rs 3,000 crore," the officer told a group of visiting journalists here Saturday.

# 'Rare photos, artefacts to be housed in museum'

A photograph of a pontoon bridge which preceded the iconic Howrah Bridge over the Hooghly river, a certificate issued to Paul Gregory Melitus, the 1880 topper from Bengal Presidency of the coveted ICS examination, an ivory replica of the Holwell Monument, are among the treasures discovered and now being carefully restored by the office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Nov 29:** Sepia-tinted photograph of steam-drawn trams, which plied in Kolkata, and another of pontoon bridge over the Hooghly river, rare documents, books and personal effects from the 19th century now stored in a secretariat building may soon find a hallowed place in a museum here.

The treasures now in the possession of the Office of Administrator General and Official Trustee of West Bengal and housed in store-rooms, inaccessible to the general public, will be properly placed in a repository soon, said an official. "We are in search of a proper building to store these arte-

facts. I am in talks with the Calcutta High Court. Hopefully, a decision about the proposed museum will be taken and an announcement to this effect will be made very soon," Biplab Roy, the Administrator General and Official Trustee, told PTI.

A photograph of a pontoon bridge which preceded the iconic Howrah Bridge over the Hooghly river, a certificate issued to Paul Gregory Melitus, the 1880 topper from Bengal Presidency of the coveted ICS examination, an ivory replica of the Holwell Monument, besides a 1919 book on public hygiene written by an Indian doctor during the outbreak of the Spanish flu contagion, are among the treas-



ures discovered and now being carefully restored by the office. Roy said his office is continuing its pursuit to recover antiques lying in different parts of the state.

"Very recently, we have been given 200 antique rifles from a police station dating back to the 19th century, sharp-edged weapons, a 12th century Vishnu idol from Bagnan in Howrah district and another centuries-old figurine from Khardah in North 24 Parganas district," Roy said.

A British-era law dating to 1849 created the office which looks after the property of any citizen who dies without any heir or next of

kin. Most of those whose properties came under the administrator's charge were Britons who died while working or doing business here and had no one who came forward to claim their estate. Many of these antique objects, which include thousands of sepia-tinted photographs dating from the 19th century to the early 20th century along with tonnes of documents and artefacts stashed away in leather folios and trunks were spotted in the storeroom of the administrator general and official trustee and taken up for restoration work, he said.



of the day quote

The AAP will ensure that salaries of sanitation workers are paid on time and contractual employees are regularised if it wins the Delhi civic polls

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Kejriwal earlier used to cry over crop residue burning in Haryana and Punjab, and blame farmers in these states when air pollution levels increased in Delhi. "Satellite images show there is no pollution from Haryana due to crop residue burning, but there is an AAP government in Punjab where crop residue is still being burnt

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | BJP LEADER

India is on the rise as never before. The rise of India is unstoppable, and we are the most favoured destination globally for investments and opportunities

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Miscreants loot ATM's cash box

Dhanbad: Miscreants took away the cash box from the Bank of India ATM in Jorapokhar police station area of Dhanbad district. The incident took place on Monday night. Rs 10.5 lakhs were placed in the machine on November 26 and Rs 8-10 lakhs is estimated to have been stolen, said police. The incident came to light when people came to withdraw money from the ATM, located at Putki road. The police reached the spot after receiving information about the theft.

Man thrashed with slipper

New Delhi: A woman thrashed a man with her slipper on stage during a Hindu Mahapanchayat on 'Justice for Shradha', organised in Delhi's Chhattarpur Tuesday. The programme, organised by Hindu Ekta Manch, was also on 'Beti Bachao' Mahapanchayat. The video of the incident also went viral on social media, in which a woman, whose face is half-covered with blue coloured 'chunni', can be seen addressing a gathering. A few moments later, she suddenly takes out her slipper and starts thrashing the man standing beside her.

SL navy detains 23 fishermen

Chennai: The Sri Lankan navy has reportedly detained 23 Indian fishermen from Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu. Coastal marine police sources told IANS that fishermen from Kottaiattanam and Jagadhipattanam in the Pudukkottai district were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy. Police sources said that five mechanised boats of the fishermen were also under the custody of the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen were taken into custody while they were fishing near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Two die of asphyxiation

Chennai: Two masons plastering the sewer pit of a new house allegedly died of asphyxiation in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, sources said Tuesday. An investigation into the matter has commenced. G. Iyanar (38) and K. Manikantan (35) died at Kondur village in Villupuram on Monday. The duo was plastering the sewer pit of a new house being built by a local person, Sekhar.



The blending of technology and traditions, modernity and culture is the need of the hour. We must be ready to lead the world with the power of knowledge

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

AI FOR SECURITY

To ensure full security at the Maha Kumbh in 2025, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh will use Artificial Intelligence (AI), apart from drones and closed-circuit television cameras



BJP hits out at Kharge for 'Ravan' jibe at PM

Taking a swipe at Modi at a rally in Behrampura area of Ahmedabad city Monday, Kharge said the Prime Minister asks people to vote 'looking at his face' in all elections. 'Are you 100-headed like Ravan,' he had said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's "Ravan" barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday triggered a slugfest with the BJP slamming it as an insult of every Gujarati and the Opposition party calling the attack on its leader "anti-Dalit tirade".

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra asked voters in Gujarat to do "100 per cent voting for the son of the soil" Modi to take "revenge" in a democratic manner for the "insult", as he invoked various objectionable remarks made by Congress members over the years against the prime minister.

Taking a swipe at Modi at a rally in Behrampura area of Ahmedabad city on Monday, Kharge Monday night said the Prime Minister asks people to vote "looking at his face" in all elections. "Are you 100-headed like Ravan," he had said.

Taking a strong exception to the remarks, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in a tweet said, "Bereft of any development agenda and support from the people, the



Congress is out to abuse Gujarat and Gujaratis."

"The statement made by Kharge ji against PM Narendra Modiji is a testimony to their hate for Gujaratis. The people of Gujarat will reject them this time too for such behaviour," Patel added. The BJP's IT department head, Amit Malviya, said in a tweet, "Unable to take the heat of Gujarat election, pushed to the fringe, Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge loses control over his words, calls Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Ravan'. From 'Maut ka Saudagar' to 'Ravan', Congress continues to insult Gujarat and it's son."

Slamming Malviya, Congress' media department head Pawan Khara asked "why can't you digest the fact that a Dalit who has worked his way up is the elected president of the Congress". "Calling him fringe shows what you and your party thinks of Dalits," Khara said. Hitting back at Malviya,

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "You have the audacity to call a man who comes from the most deprived background, who has won elections for the last 55 years - fringe? We are proud of @kharge Ji as Cong Prez, it's time you stop your anti-Dalit tirade."

"You and your fake news peddling brigade is the fringe," she said. At a press conference, Patra alleged Kharge was voicing the views of former Congress presidents Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Personal attacks on Modi started with Sonia Gandhi's "maut ka saudagar" (merchant of death) remarks during the 2007 Gujarat assembly polls, he said.

"What Kharge said is condemnable and shows the mindset of the Congress. This is not merely an insult of Modi but of every Gujarati," he said. The Congress has denigrated the post of the prime minister, he added.

SC seeks report from jails on non-release of poor despite bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Days after the emotional speech of President Droupadi Murmu flagging the plight of poor tribals languishing in jails in petty offences despite bail, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed prison authorities across the country to provide details of such prisoners within 15 days to NALSA for formulating a national scheme for their release.

The President had, in her maiden Constitution Day address on November 26 at the Supreme Court, highlighted the plight of poor tribals of her home state Odisha besides Jharkhand, saying they remain incarcerated despite getting bail for lack of money to furnish the bail amount or arrange sureties.

Departing from her written speech in English, Murmu had spoken in Hindi to urge the judiciary to do something for the poor tribals, noting those accused of serious offences walk out free but these poor inmates, who may have gone to jail for slapping someone, have to spend years on end before they are released.

Justice S K Kaul was among those seated on the dais with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, when the President narrated her experience of meeting several undertrial prisoners as an MLA in her native Odisha and later as the Governor of Jharkhand.

A bench of Justices Kaul and Abhay S Oka on Tuesday directed the jail authorities to submit the details of such prisoners to the respective state governments which will forward the documents to the National Legal Service Authority within 15 days.

ISIS-inspired terror still a threat: Doval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Emphasising that cross-border and ISIS-inspired terrorism continues to pose a threat, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said Tuesday that Ulema have a "vital role" to play in countering radicalisation and extremism by propagating progressive ideas and thought.

In his opening remarks at a dialogue between the Indonesian and Indian delegation of Ulema and leaders of other faiths, Doval said the cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan.

"...Both our countries have been victims of terrorism and separatism. While we have overcome the challenges to a considerable extent, the phenomenon of cross-border and ISIS-inspired terrorism continues to pose a threat."

"Cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan," Doval said. Emphasising the important role

Cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan

AJIT DOVAL | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

of Ulema in Islamic society, Doval said the aim of the discussion is to bring together Indian and Indonesian Ulema and scholars to promote tolerance, harmony and peaceful co-existence which will bolster the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and radicalisation.

Urging the need to develop a common narrative on deradicalisation, Doval said in a democracy there is no place for hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonisation, violence, conflict and misuse of religion for narrow ends.

Drawing attention towards youths who are becoming the "primary target" of radicalisation, Doval said if their energies are nurtured in the right direction, they can become "harbingers of change" and building blocks of progress in any society.

Media must report responsibly during terror attacks: Anurag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur Tuesday advised caution while live reporting terror attacks, saying it should not provide clues to attackers and their ill motives.

"Media needs to report with responsibility in the case of earthquakes, fire and more importantly terrorist attacks. Media must ensure that any live reporting in case of terrorist attack should not provide clues to the attackers and their ill motives," Thakur said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly here.

While the speed with which information is transmitted is important, accuracy is even more important and should be primary in the minds of communicators, Thakur said.

The Union minister said maintaining public trust should be the highest guiding principle for responsible media organisations. Thakur also credited the media for coming to the aid of those stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying it connected people with the outside world.



Athletes play kabaddi during HP Forest Sports and Duty meet in Mandi

PTI PHOTO

Cops tow away car with Sharmila sitting inside

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 29: A car with YSRTP leader Y.S. Sharmila in it was towed away by police here Tuesday when she was heading towards Chief Minister's official residence to protest the alleged attack by TRS supporters on her padyatra in Warangal district Monday.

The YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) leader herself was driving the car and proceeding towards Pragathi Bhavan as a mark of protest against the attack by ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Police stopped her on the way. As Sharmila refused to get down from the car, the police called a crane which towed away the vehicle with YSRTP leader sitting in it.

Sharmila, who is sister of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was arrested and taken to S.R. Nagar Police Station. After reaching the police station, she refused to get down from the car. Police personnel forcibly opened the car door and whisked her away into the police station. Meanwhile, some YSRTP work-



ers who reached the police station to stage the protest were arrested. A case was registered against her at Panjagutta Police Station. The case booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public ser-

vant from discharge of his duty), section 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty) and section 327 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort property, or to constrain to an illegal act).

Meanwhile, Sharmila's mother Y.S. Vijayamma was placed under house arrest by the police as she was leaving for S.R. Nagar Police Station to meet her. The police did not allow Vijayamma to come out of her residence in Jubilee Hills. Vijayamma began a protest at the residence along with her supporters.

Raveena's visit to Satpura Reserve under scanner

Raveena Tandon had shared the pictures of her visit to the Satpura Tiger Reserve on her social media handles. She had also shared the pictures of tigers which she clicked during her visit to the reserve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Narmadapuram (MP), Nov 29: The Satpura Tiger Reserve authorities have started an investigation after a video purportedly showed a vehicle, in which Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon was allegedly travelling, close to a tiger during a safari, an official said Tuesday. The video, which surfaced on

social media platforms, showed the safari vehicle reaching close to a tiger. In the clip, camera shutters are heard making sounds and a tiger is seen roaring at them in the reserve located in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district.

Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) of Forest Dheeraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said following the directives of senior officials, he has started a



probe into the alleged incident. He said during Tandon's visit to the reserve on November 22, her vehicle allegedly reached near a tiger.

The vehicle driver and the officials on duty there will be served a notice and questioned, the official said. The probe report will be submitted to senior officials for further action, he said.

Tandon had shared the pictures of her visit to the Satpura Tiger Reserve on her social media handles. She had also shared the pictures of tigers which she clicked during her visit to the reserve.

Earlier this month, authorities at the Van Vihar National Park, lo-

cated in state capital Bhopal, had started an investigation after Tandon shared a video and claimed some miscreants were throwing stones at a tiger enclosure in the park.

"Van Vihar, Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh. Tourists (ruffians) pelting stones at the tiger in closures. Having a good laugh when told not to do so. Screaming, laughing, shaking the cage-throwing rocks. No security for the tiger. Humiliation they are subjected to," Tandon had tweeted. In reply, the park authorities had said they were investigating the incident. Such acts are punishable under the Wildlife Protection Act, they had said.

2 PAK DRONES SHOT DOWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 29: Two Pakistani drones were gunned down by the Border Security Force along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, thus foiling the cross-border drugs smuggling bids in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts, officials said Tuesday.

Two hexacopters were carrying around 10 kg of heroin which were recovered by the BSF troops. In the first incident in Amritsar, a women squad of the BSF shot down a hexacopter, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with six rotors, which was entering India from Pakistan with 3.11 kg of narcotics.

The troops noticed that the drone was entering the Indian territory near Chaharpur village, around 40 km north of Amritsar city, on Monday night, according to officials. Two female constables of the 73 battalion fired 25 rounds at the drone and brought it down at 11.05 pm. During a search operation, the BSF recovered a partially-damaged hexacopter.

The drone, weighing 18 kg, was carrying 3.11 kg of narcotics, which was wrapped in a white polythene that was attached underneath it, the BSF said. Another hexacopter, carrying 6.6 kg heroin, was shot down near Kalash Havelian village in Tarn Taran district by the BSF troops, the officials said.

The second drone was spotted on Monday night, prompting the BSF personnel to open fire at the UAV. During the search operation, the hexacopter weighing 20 kg was found in a partially-damaged condition near village Kalash Havelian, the BSF officials said.

"Alert troops of the BSF once again were able to capture a drone and foil a smuggling attempt," an official of the border guarding force said. Another drone was spotted near the Vadai Cheema border outpost at 10.57 pm on Monday, an official said.

After the BSF troops opened fire at the UAV, it went back to Pakistan. Last Friday, the BSF troops had also shot down a Pakistani drone near the international border in Amritsar.



# international



European countries should double their defence expenditure because of Russia's war in Ukraine  
URMAS REINSALU | ESTONIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER

## FOUR-DAY WORKING WEEK

A hundred companies in the United Kingdom have signed up for a permanent four-day working week for all employees without cutting any pay. The 100 companies employ around 2,600 staff in total, but the 4 Day Week Campaign is hoping that they will be able to bring a transformative change in the country



## of the day quote

We've made clear to Russia that measures imposed as a result of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine don't prevent Russians and Russian inspectors from conducting New START treaty inspections in the United States

NEED PRICE | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, US

The NHS faces real pressures, which is why we are investing over GBP 100 million in the technologies and medicines of the future to address some of the biggest public health challenges facing our country

RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH PM

Individuals are still fantasising about killing other Australians, still spouting their hateful ideologies in chat rooms, still honing their capabilities by researching bomb-making and training with weapons

MIKE BURGESS | AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Four Palestinians killed by Israeli fire

Jerusalem: A Palestinian man Tuesday rammed his car into an Israeli soldier, seriously injuring her, before he was shot dead by Israeli police in the occupied West Bank. He was the fourth Palestinian killed in a series of violent incidents throughout the day. It was the latest bloodshed in a mounting surge of Israeli-Palestinian violence in the wake of a Jerusalem bombing last week that killed two Israelis.

### China's astronauts on a historic mission

Beijing: China Tuesday launched a spacecraft with a three-person crew to its under-construction space station amid intensifying competition with the United States. The Shenzhou-15 spaceship carrying the aircraft was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. It carried three astronauts - Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming, and Zhang Lu. Fei will be the commander of the mission, Ji Qiming, assistant to the director of the CNSA, told the media. The launch was carried out with a Long March-2F carrier rocket.



UNCERTAIN FUTURE: A child stands as police remove Venezuelan migrants from a camp on the banks of the Rio Bravo river, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

# China hints at relaxing zero-Covid policy

SEVERAL MILITARY TANKS HAVE ROLLED THROUGH THE STREETS OF CHINA AS OFFICIALS RAMP UP THEIR CRACKDOWN AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS WHO ARE PROTESTING AGAINST XI JINPING'S DISASTROUS ZERO-COVID POLICY

AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 29: China Tuesday said it will take steps to "minimise" the impact of its draconian coronavirus lockdowns, amidst the unprecedented public protests against President Xi Jinping's stringent zero-Covid policy that evoked strong support from the UN, the US and other nations.

To a question whether authorities would reconsider the zero-Covid policy following the protests, National Health Commission spokesperson Mi Feng said efforts would continue to fine-tune policy to reduce its impact on society and the economy.

China has moved quickly to suppress demonstrations that erupted in key cities against the zero-Covid policy, deploying police forces at key protest sites and tightening online censorship.

The places where the anti-government protests have taken place have been sealed with barricades. Also, several universities and colleges, including the prestigious Tsinghua University, where hundreds of students held blank paper protests - an act which has become a symbol of defiance against Chinese censorship - were advised to go to their hometowns.

With memories of 1989 Tiananmen Square student protests, which shook the ruling Communist

Party rule, in mind, the government is cautious to ensure that the campuses are emptied before they escalate. Thousands of students demanding democracy and freedom in the Communist nation were killed during the Tiananmen protest.

The scale of the rare spontaneous weekend protest in Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu, Wuhan and several other places caught the Communist Party and the police by surprise.

The police crackdown on the protesters and the foreign media, including the detention and manhandling of a BBC journalist in Shanghai, drew global criticism.

The United Nations called on China to respect the right to peace-

ful protest. UN Human Rights Office spokesman Jeremy Laurence told the media that people should not be detained for simply protesting. White House's National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby said the US is closely watching the developments in China. In London, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during an interaction with business leaders and foreign policy experts said that in the face of the protests, China had "chosen to crack down further, including by assaulting a BBC journalist". The official media, which blocked the coverage of the protests, also dropped hints of relaxation of the draconian measures.



## IMF head urges to end mass lockdowns

Berlin: It is time for China to move away from massive lockdowns and toward a more targeted approach to Covid-19, the head of the International Monetary Fund said days after widespread protests broke out, a change that would ease the impact to a world economy already struggling with high inflation, an energy crisis and disrupted food supply. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged a "recalibration" of China's tough "zero-Covid" approach aimed at isolating every case "exactly because of the impact it has on both people and on the economy."

# UK's golden era with China is over: Sunak

UK PM RISHI SUNAK SAID THAT CHINA POSES A SYSTEMIC CHALLENGE TO BRITISH VALUES AND INTERESTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 29: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made a clear break with the past on UK-China relations as he declared that the so-called "golden era" of bilateral ties is over due to the "systemic challenge" to British values and interests posed by increasing authoritarianism in Beijing.

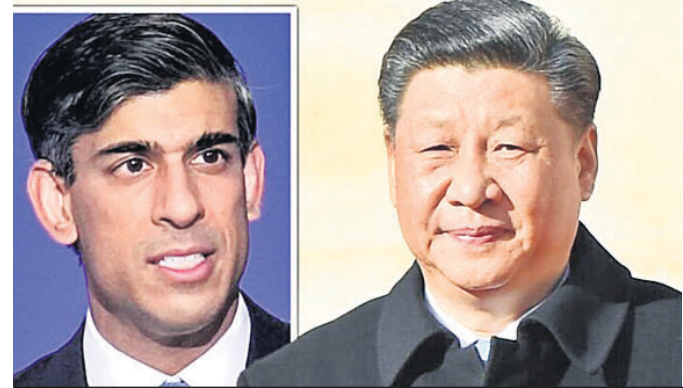
In his first major foreign policy speech at the Lord Mayor of London's Banquet Monday night, the British Indian leader said he wants to "evolve" the UK's approach towards one of Asia's largest economies as he criticised the country's human rights record. However, he did acknowledge that the UK "cannot simply ignore China's significance in world affairs" and therefore his approach would be one of "robust pragmatism" taking a "long-term view".

"Let's be clear, the so-called 'golden era' is over, along with the naive idea that trade would lead to social and political reform," said Sunak, with reference to the phrase coined during

the David Cameron-led Conservative Party government around seven years ago. "But nor should we rely on simplistic Cold War rhetoric. We recognise China poses a systemic challenge to our values and interests, a challenge that grows more acute as it moves towards even greater authoritarianism," he said.

Sunak was critical of China's handling of the ongoing anti-lockdown protests in the country and the arrest and beating of a BBC journalist over the weekend, saying instead of listening to people's concerns, the Chinese government "has chosen to crack down further". "The media - and our parliamentarians - must be able to highlight these issues without sanction, including calling out abuses in Xinjiang - and the curtailment of freedom in Hong Kong," he said.

"Of course, we cannot simply ignore China's significance in world affairs to global economic stability or issues like climate change. The US, Canada, Australia, Japan and many others understand this too. So together we'll manage this sharpening competition, including with diplomacy and engagement," he said. The 42-year-old former chancellor, who took charge at 10 Downing Street last month, had faced some criticism over the course of the Conservative Party leadership election back in August for being too soft on his approach towards China.



# S'pore Parl passes laws to decriminalise gay sex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 29: Singapore will decriminalise gay sex but protect the definition of marriage against legal challenge after Parliament Tuesday approved changes to two bills.

A repeal of the colonial-era Section 377A of the Penal Code was passed with a majority of 93 to three votes in parliament, reported Channel News Asia. A constitutional amendment to protect

the definition of marriage against legal challenge was passed with a majority of 85 to two votes, according to the report. Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam reiterated that the constitutional change would protect the heterosexual definition of marriage along with laws and policies based on that. Social and Family Development Minister Masagos Zulkifli stressed that there were no plans to change the definition of marriage to include same-sex marriages.

# England becoming less white and Christian

AGENCIES

London, Nov 29: The number of people living in England and Wales identifying as Christian has fallen below half the population for the first time, while those identifying as Muslim or Hindu have registered a small rise, according to the latest census figures released Tuesday. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released its analysis of the 2021 census data to show that just over 46 per cent said they were Christian, down from 59.3 per cent in the last census conducted in 2011.

Those identifying as having "no religion" was the second most common response to the census survey, increasing to 37.2 per cent from 25.2 per cent in 2011, while those identifying as Muslim or Hindu registered an increase.

"For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2 per cent, 27.5 million people) described themselves as 'Christian', a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3 per cent (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, 'Christian' remained the most common response to the religion question," the Office for National Statistics release said.

Those identifying as Sikh also registered a small increase, up from 0.8 per cent (423,000) in 2011



The Christian population in England and Wales fell from 59.3% in 2011 to 46.2% in 2021

Muslim population grew in the 2011-21 period from 4.9% to 6.5% and Hindu population grew from 1.5% to 1.7%

to 0.9 per cent (524,000) in 2021, and Buddhists a similar hike from 0.4 per cent (249,000) to 0.5 per cent (273,000). People identifying as Jewish remained about the same at 0.5 per cent of the population.

The religion question in the census is voluntary, which the ONS said was answered by 94 per cent of residents, an increase from 92.9 per cent in 2011.

The data also shows that London remains the most religiously diverse region of England, with Harrow in the north of the UK capital with the highest percentage of the Hindu population at 25.8

per cent, up from 25.3 per cent in 2011. The city of Leicester, known for its grand Diwali celebrations, was next with a greater increase of practicing Hindus at 2.7 percentage points - 17.9 per cent up from 15.2 per cent in 2011.

The city has also become one of the first cities in the country where people identifying as white are no longer the majority - with 41 per cent in 2021 compared to 51 per cent in 2011. The areas with both the highest percentage overall and the largest percentage increase of people describing their religion as Sikh remained Wolverhampton

and Sandwell in the West Midlands region of England.

As in 2011, the area with the highest percentage of the Muslim population was in Tower Hamlets and Newham areas of east London, followed by the borough Blackburn with Darwen in north-west England.

In its analysis of national identity, Indians remain the third most common non-UK identity among residents in England and Wales after Polish and Romanian.

The trend is reflected among the top foreign languages spoken in the country after English, with Polish holding the top spot followed by Romanian.

Punjabi, which was the second most common language in 2011 has dropped to third place, followed by Urdu at fourth. Among the South Asian languages, Bengali and Gujarati have dropped several spots from fourth and fifth in 2011 to eighth and ninth respectively.

The next most common ethnic group ticked in the census was Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh accounting for 9.3 per cent of the overall population - 5.5 million people, up from 4.2 million. The 2021 census survey, carried out in March last year, was filled out by more than 24 million households across England and Wales and more data from the survey is set to be published in stages by the ONS over the next two years.

# Air raid sirens blare in Ukraine as NATO meets

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 29: The United States and NATO allies Tuesday promised more arms for Kyiv and equipment to help restore Ukrainian power and heat knocked out by Russian missile and drone strikes, as air raid sirens blared across Ukraine for the first time this week.

Ukrainians fled the streets for bomb shelters, although the all-clear later sounded across the country apart from the front-line eastern province of Luhansk.

Officials remained vigilant: "Last time, the Russians also disguised the strike as a training flight... Let's see," said Vitaliy Kim, governor of southern Ukraine's Mykolaiv region.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other foreign ministers from the NATO alliance began a two-day meeting in Bucharest, seeking ways both to keep Ukrainians safe and warm and to sustain Kyiv's military through a coming winter campaign.

"NATO will continue to stand for Ukraine as long as it takes. We will not back down," alliance General-Secretary Jens Stoltenberg said in a speech in Bucharest.

He told reporters Russian President Vladimir Putin was "trying to use winter as a weapon of



A view shows remains of MLRS shells used by Russian troops for military strikes of the city and collected by sappers in Kharkiv

All-clear in Kyiv after countryside air raid alert

Russia denies its intent is to hurt civilians

NATO says Moscow is using winter as weapon

war" as Moscow's forces lose on the battlefield, and that Western allies would step in to help. British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly accused Putin of trying to "freeze the Ukrainians into submission".

U.S. and European officials said the ministers would focus on military aid such as air defence systems and ammunition, as well as non-lethal aid including fuel, medical supplies, winter equipment and drone jammers, delivered through NATO. "I hope we will agree on a quite significant package of non-lethal help," Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said.

# Asim Munir takes charge as Pak's new Army chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 29: General Asim Munir, a former ISI head, assumed charge as the Pakistan Army chief Tuesday, at a time when the cash-strapped country was in the midst of a political slugfest between the government and opposition leader Imran Khan over holding of snap polls and fresh threats from the dreaded Taliban militants.

General Munir replaced General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who retired after serving two consecutive three-year terms as the Army chief in the coup-prone country, where the military wields considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.

Munir, who is in his mid-50s, assumed charge at an impressive ceremony at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, becoming the 17th Chief of the Army Staff. The ceremony was attended by senior officers, diplomats and politicians.





**Policy makers are faced with very difficult time in the year ahead. They have to be disciplined in the fight against inflation**  
**KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA**  
IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR

## BAN ON EXPORTS OF ORGANIC NON-BASMATI RICE LIFTED

The government Tuesday lifted the ban on exports of organic non-basmati rice, including broken rice, a move which would help in promoting outbound shipments of the commodity. The government in September had banned the export of broken rice.



## of the day quote

Our (NTPC's) growth is going to be more and more on renewable side. But we should never forget that we (NTPC) are a national utility. Our prime responsibility is that power is available and affordable and within that (framework) how we can make it much cleaner and greener. I think this is the only mantra which really keeps guiding us

**GURDEEP SINGH** | NTPC CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

We will utilise our G20 presidency to try and set up an international biofuel alliance like the International Solar Alliance

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI** | OIL MINISTER

There is a huge crisis of global debt. Almost 70 countries in the world are facing a debt crisis. We have the challenge of a global supply chain which is disrupted

**AMITABH KANT** | INDIA'S G20 SHERPA

# Sanctions-hit Russia asks India for crucial products

During the Moscow visit, Jaishankar had said that India needed to boost exports to Russia to balance bilateral trade that is now tilted towards Russia

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Nov 29:** Moscow has sent India a list of more than 500 products for potential delivery including parts for cars, aircraft and trains, four sources familiar with the matter said, as sanctions squeeze Russia's ability to keep vital industries running.

The list, a version of which has been seen by Reuters in New Delhi, is provisional and it is unclear how many of the items will eventually be exported and in what quantity, but an Indian government source said the request was unusual in its scope.

An industry source in Moscow, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue, said Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade asked large companies to supply lists of raw materials and equipment they needed.

The source added that further discussion would be needed to agree specifications and volumes and that the outreach was not limited to India.

Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Indian foreign

and commerce ministries and the prime minister's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Russia's requests were made weeks ahead of Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's visit to Moscow starting Nov 7, two of the Indian sources said. It was not immediately clear what was conveyed by New Delhi to Russia during the visit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has not joined Western countries in openly criticising Moscow for the war in Ukraine, and has sharply increased purchases of Russian oil that have cushioned it from some of the impact of sanctions.

During the Moscow visit, Jaishankar said India needed to boost exports to Russia to balance bilateral trade that is now tilted towards Russia.

He was accompanied on the visit by senior officials in charge of agriculture, petroleum and natural gas, ports and shipping, finance, chemicals and fertiliser, and trade - which he said showed the importance of ties with Russia.



## RUSSIA'S STRUGGLES

Western sanctions have crippled supplies of some crucial products in Russia. Airlines are experiencing an acute shortage of parts because almost all planes are foreign-made. Car parts are also in demand, with global automakers having left the market.

A source in Russia's car sales industry said the trade ministry had sent a list of car parts needed to corresponding ministries and state agencies in other countries, including India.

The list of items from Russia, which runs to nearly 14 pages, includes car engine parts like pistons, oil pumps and ignition coils.

There is also demand for bumpers, seatbelts and infotainment systems. For aircraft and helicopters, Russia requested 41 items including landing gear components, fuel systems, communication systems and fire extinguishing systems, life jackets and aviation tyres.

Also on the list were raw materials to produce paper, paper bags and consumer packaging and materials and equipment to produce textiles including yarns and dyes, according to the document reviewed by Reuters.

Russian metals producers like nickel and palladium giant Norinickel have said Western sanctions and self-sanctioning by some

suppliers have made it difficult for industrial companies to obtain imported equipment, spare parts, materials and technologies in 2022, posing a challenge to their development programmes.

The list includes nearly 200 metallurgy items.

Russia has been India's largest supplier of military equipment for decades and it is the fourth-biggest market for Indian pharmaceutical products.

But with purchases of Russian oil soaring and coal and fertiliser shipments also strong, India is looking for ways to rebalance trade, the first Indian government source said. Indian imports from Russia have grown nearly five times to \$29 billion between Feb 24 and Nov 20 compared with \$6 billion in the same period a year ago. Exports, meanwhile, have fallen to \$1.9 billion from \$2.4 billion, the source said.

India is hoping to boost its exports to nearly \$10 billion over coming months with Russia's list of requests, according to the government source.

But some Indian companies are reluctant to export to Russia over fears of being sanctioned by the West, the lack of clarity over payments and challenges to securing insurance.

## Most rated Indian cos can withstand a weaker ₹: Moody's

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 29:** Most rated companies in India can withstand a weaker rupee, although external factors like rising interest rates in developed economies and higher energy prices would increase currency volatility, Moody's Investors Service said Tuesday.

In a commentary on non-financial companies in India, Moody's said November 25, the Indian rupee touched 81.67 versus the US dollar, after depreciating almost 10 per cent since the beginning of the year. A steady rise in interest rates in developed economies combined with higher energy prices has resulted in a widening current account deficit, pressuring the rupee. "Although these external factors increase currency volatility, most rated companies in India have buffers to withstand the rupee's depreciation," Moody's said.

The weakening rupee is credit negative for Indian companies that generate revenue in the domestic currency but depend on US dollar debt to fund their operations. A weaker rupee will also hurt companies with dollar-denominated costs but rupee-based revenues.

## SHORT TAKES

### TVS Motor rolls out popular bike

**Chennai:** Two and three-wheeler major TVS Motor Company Tuesday rolled out its 2023 Special Edition of its popular motorcycle 160 4V Apache RTR equipped with a host of features. The 2023 TVS Apache RTR 160 4V Special Edition in pearl white is priced at ₹1.30 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi) and available at its dealerships across the country. The 2023 TVS Apache RTR160 4V Special Edition comprises of new pearl white colour, dual tone seat, adjustable clutch and brake levers, rear radial tyre among many others. "...We are delighted to introduce the new 2023 TVS Apache RTR 160 4V Special Edition, offering a new refreshed colour option with uniquely colour coordinated black and red alloys, a lightweight bullpup exhaust and an array of exciting features," TVS Motor Company, head-business premium Vimal Sumbly said.

### Kia India enters pre-owned car biz

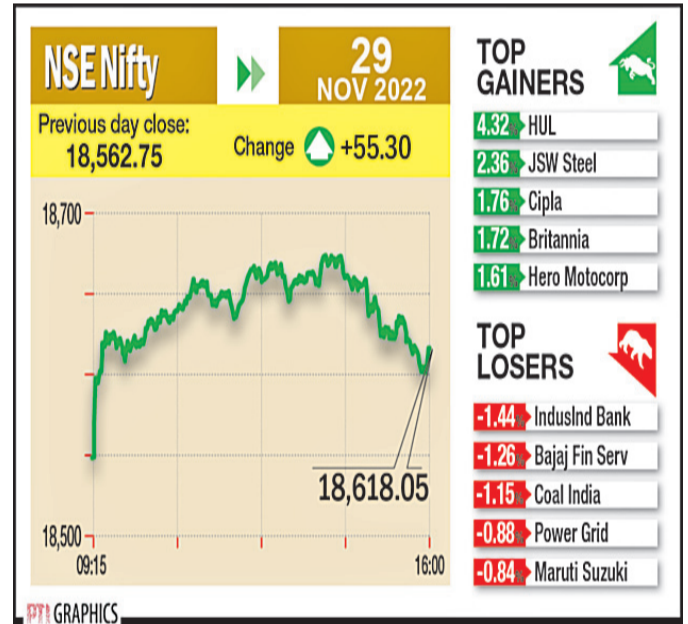
**New Delhi:** Automaker Kia India Tuesday said it has commenced certified pre-owned business in the country with a plan to have 30 sales outlets by the end of the year. The company said its certified pre-owned car business 'Kia CPO' intends to provide a new age experience to customers, in line with new car buying experience, that will allow them to sell, buy or exchange pre-owned cars, backed by ownership transfers and customised finance options. "With Kia CPO, we want to rewrite the rules of the game for the pre-owned car market. Currently, Indian customers have limited access to certified and verified information when it comes to the pre-owned car segment and we intend to change this notion with our entry into the business," Kia India Chief Sales Officer Myung-sik Sohn said in a statement.

### BNP Paribas sells Wipro shares

**New Delhi:** BNP Paribas Arbitrage Tuesday offloaded over 18 lakh shares of IT major Wipro for ₹73 crore through an open market transaction. BNP Paribas Arbitrage sold 18,00,164 shares of the company at an average price of ₹405 apiece, according to the block deal data available with the BSE. This took the deal value to ₹72.90 crore. Tuesday, Societe Generale picked up the shares of the company. Shares of Wipro closed 0.12 per cent lower at ₹405.20 per scrip on the BSE.

## MARKETS RALLY FOR 6TH DAY

# Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 29:** The Sensex and Nifty ended at fresh lifetime peaks Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in other Asian markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex gained 177.04 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 62,681.84, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 382.6 points or 0.61 per cent to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,887.40.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 55.30 points or 0.30 per cent to end at 18,618.05, its fresh record closing high.

"While the winning streak continued and key benchmarks scaled new highs, investors traded with caution in a slightly volatile market. There are worries about growing protests in China over the imposition of strict lockdowns, which markets fear could hurt the already slowing global economy. If the situation doesn't improve, this could impact the market. But since India is in a slightly better position compared to other major economies, investors are willing to bet big on us," Shrikant Chouhan,

Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Among the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan and HCL Technologies were the major winners.

IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Power Grid and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.29 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG jumped 1.73 per cent, metal (0.57 per cent), consumer durables (0.58 per cent) and healthcare (0.54 per cent). Consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, telecommunication, auto, bankex and services were among the laggard.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while Tokyo settled lower. International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.45 per cent higher at USD 85.23 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought shares worth ₹935.88 crore Monday, as per exchange data.

# Tata group to merge Vistara with Air India

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 29:** In a major consolidation in the Indian aviation space, Tata group Tuesday announced the merger of Vistara with Air India, and pursuant to the deal, Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India.

The proposed deal is expected to be complete by March 2024, subject to regulatory approvals.

Tata group owns a 51 per cent stake in Vistara and the rest is with Singapore Airlines (SIA).

In a release, SIA said Vistara and Air India would be merged, and it would also be investing ₹2,058.5 crore in Air India as part of the transaction.

"This would give SIA a 25.1 per cent stake in an enlarged Air India group with a significant presence in all key market segments. SIA said it intends to fully fund this investment with its internal cash



resources, which stood at 17.5 billion Singapore dollars as of September 30."

In a separate release, Tata group said that with the consolidation, Air India would be the country's leading domestic and international carrier with a combined fleet of 218 aircraft, "making it India's largest international carrier and second largest domestic carrier".

only after the completion of the merger," SIA said in the release. The actual amount will depend on factors, including the progress of the enlarged Air India's business plan, and its access to other funding options. SIA intends to fully fund any additional capital injections with its internal cash resources, it added.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said the merger of Vistara and Air India is an important milestone in the journey to make Air India a truly world-class airline.

"As part of the transformation, Air India is focusing on growing both its network and fleet, re-vamping its customer proposition, enhancing safety, reliability and on-time performance. We are excited with the opportunity of creating a strong Air India which would offer both full-service and low-cost service across domestic and international routes," he said.

# ONGC gas price to be capped at \$6.5 for 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 29:** A government-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is recommending a floor and ceiling price for natural gas produced from legacy fields of state-owned firms for five years to help moderate CNG and piped cooking gas rates.

State producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be paid a minimum or floor price of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a cap or ceiling price of USD 6.5 against the current rate of USD 8.57, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The report, which calls for not tinkering with the existing pricing formula for difficult fields such as KG-D6 of Reliance Industries and bp plc, is under finalisation and may lower the ceiling price for ONGC gas marginally.

The floor and ceiling price will be applicable for five years although the initial thought was to keep it

for three years, they said adding the ceiling price will have an annual escalation clause.

The escalation being suggested is USD 0.5 per mmBtu annually with no change pricing for first two years or a USD 0.25 per mmBtu annual escalation for five years.

The escalation will be adjusted to the foreign exchange rate, they said.

The panel, which was tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer" while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy", has favoured two different pricing regimes, sources said.

For the legacy or old fields of ONGC and OIL - where the cost has long been recovered and which are currently governed by a formula that uses rates in gas-surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia - the committee is recommending a floor or minimum base price and cap or ceiling rates.



This would ensure that prices do not fall below the cost of production, as they did last year, or do not spike to record levels as currently.

Gas from legacy fields is sold to city gas distributors who had to raise rates of CNG and piped cooking gas by over 70 per cent after prices went up from USD 2.90 per million British thermal unit till March to USD 6.10 in April and further to USD 8.57 last month, re-

flecting a surge in global rates. This rise in rates, which narrowed the gap between CNG and polluting diesel, had prompted the review.

Sources said the city gas will get top priority in the allocation of the gas from legacy fields, called APM gas. The sector will be in the 'no-cut' category, meaning supplies to other consumers will be cut first in case of a decline in production.

# WANT TO CREATE A STARTUP? JOIN ANOTHER FIRST

REUTERS

**Stockholm, Nov 29:** More than 1,000 technology startups were created in Europe and Israel by former employees of about 200 venture capital-backed unicorns in the region since the financial crisis of 2008, a report by VC firm Accel showed Tuesday.

After the boom in startups in the last two years, sentiment has turned negative in the second half of this year with several companies lowering valuations and cutting jobs in a bid to find a path to profit.

But Accel argues that the community is in a much stronger position than during the financial crisis with a strong set of founders ready to create "the next wave of companies".

Top startups such as BlaBlaCar, Criteo, Delivery Hero, Klarna, N26, Revolut, Skype, Spotify and Zalando have become the breeding grounds for new founders. Each of those companies has led to the creation of more than 20 startups, helmed by former employees.

Former employees from each of the newer startups like Babylon,



Celonis, iZettle and SumUp have also created more than 10 companies. "Last year, the pace of investment was very high. That has gone down dramatically," Harry Nelis, partner at Accel, said in an interview.

"There will be fewer deals, fewer transactions taking place in a time of transition, but once the new level has been found, I think things will pick up quite a bit," he said.

While London saw the most number of startups being created with employees of 27 unicorns forming 168 startups, Swedish capital

Stockholm had one of the highest per capita numbers with 98 companies spawning from just 11 startups.

"Unicorns tend to create more rounded founders than large organizations like the tech behemoths because people have had kind of a better training ground for entrepreneurial activity," Nelis said.

Employees in a startup tends to get access to many different functions from engineering to sales, giving them exposure to various parts of the business, he said.

# DUTCH, SENEGAL SEAL LAST 16 SPOTS

1st victory for African team against South American side in World Cup



**IN SEVENTH HEAVEN:** Senegal skipper Kalidou Koulibaly is over the moon after scoring the second goal against Ecuador

PHOTO: FIFA TWITTER

AGENCIES

**Al Khor (Qatar), Nov 29:** The Netherlands finished off the worst showing by any World Cup host nation by beating Qatar 2-0 here Tuesday. The Dutch advanced to the round of 16 while the Qataris, who were already eliminated, became the first host to lose all three of its group matches at soccer's biggest event.

In another Group A game, Senegal beat Ecuador 2-1 to also seal their last 16 spot. Coming into the game, Ecuador needed just a draw to remain in the competition. However, that was not to be as the Senegal footballers showed more urgency when required to emerge victorious. Incidentally this was

Senegal's first victory over a South American side in the World Cup.

In the Netherlands-Qatar game, Cody Gakpo put the Dutch ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in as many matches and Frenkie de Jong doubled the advantage five minutes into the second half. They scored another goal, but it was ruled out for offside after VAR.

The Netherlands are a three-time runner-up at the World Cup, and also finished third in 2014. They failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, but are showing this time that they will not be pushovers. Against Qatar, who had nothing to lose, the Netherlands looked a bit rusty for the first 15 minutes. However, once they got the

first goal, they settled down to playing possession football and never gave the hosts any opportunity to create chances.

Senegal were the deserving winners against Ecuador. It was a make-or-break game for both the sides. However, while Ecuador was content to defend initially, Senegal attacked relentlessly in search of a goal. Ismaila Sarr and skipper Kalidou Koulibaly scored for Senegal while Moises Caicedo hit the target for Ecuador.

Senegal came close to taking the lead early on when a flowing move ended with the ball being worked to Idrissa Gueye, who fired just wide.

Sarr was a constant menace

down the left flank for Senegal in the first half, and the Watford winger earned his team a penalty as he broke into the area before being brought down by Piero Hincapié. With qualification potentially resting on his shoulders, he displayed real composure to step up and roll the ball into the right corner, making it 1-0.

Ecuador levelled in the 67th minute when Félix Torres headed a corner into the path of the unmarked Caicedo, who diverted it in from close range. However, Ecuador's jubilation quickly turned to dejection two minutes later when a Senegal free-kick into the area found its way to Koulibaly, and the captain powered it home to restore Senegal's lead.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Doha, Nov 29:** Lionel Messi has already come to Argentina's rescue at the World Cup. He might just have to do it all over again. Another emotionally charged evening awaits Messi and the soccer-mad South American nation that worships him when Argentina meet Poland Wednesday for a match with so much on the line.

For Messi, who is playing in likely his last World Cup it is the stage to deliver, similar to Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who might also be too old when soccer's biggest tournament rolls up next in 2026.

There are multiple permutations at play for the Group C finale: A win for the Argentines and they are sure to advance, likely as group winners. A draw, and they can either finish in second place behind Poland or be squeezed out by either Saudi Arabia or Mexico, who are playing in a match taking place concurrently.

A loss? Well, that just doesn't bear thinking about for anyone associated with Argentina. The team wouldn't just be eliminated but humiliated. Messi might never be seen in the Albiceleste's sky blue-and-white jersey again.

"Now another World Cup has begun," Messi said after the game against Mexico. He will hope to score for the third straight match at this World Cup and has netted 13 goals for Argentina in 2022 -

# ALBICELESTE BANKING ON MESSI MAGIC

Make or break for Argentina as they face Poland for a place in the last 16

already a career-high haul in a single calendar year.

Concerns about Messi's health have dogged the seven-time World Player of the year at the World Cup, starting from when he trained alone for two days before

Argentina's opening game. He played the full 90 minutes against Saudi Arabia and also in the Mexico game, which he finished in some discomfort after turning his ankle late on.

Messi later confirmed it was nothing serious. But it only adds to the worries about the physical well-being of a 35-year-old player who is clearly pacing himself during matches, picking and choosing his moments to explode into life.

As for Poland, some of the weight is off the 34-year-old Lewandowski's back after he finally scored a goal at a World Cup in the 2-0 win Saturday over Saudi Arabia. Now he's looking to advance beyond the group stage for the first time at a World Cup. Poland haven't done so since 1986.

Lewandowski said after the game against Saudi Arabia that he is looking forward to many more goals in the tournament. "The confidence is back and nothing can be better than a tough game where you have to be at your best," he had stated. The Albiceleste defence will certainly have to be cautious about the Polish striker.



## POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	P	GD
Poland	2	1	1	0	4	2
Argentina	2	1	0	1	3	1
Saudi Arabia	2	1	0	1	3	-1
Mexico	2	0	1	1	1	-2

\*GD stands for goal difference

## SHORT TAKES

### Pitch invader banned for rest of World Cup

**Lusail (Qatar):** A spectator ran onto the field carrying a rainbow flag during a World Cup match between Portugal and Uruguay wearing a blue 'Superman' t-shirt that said 'SAVE UKRAINE' here Monday. Security officials chased the person down and he dropped the flag on the field before being escorted off the field. FIFA officials said Tuesday that the person has been 'banned from attending World Cup matches and his embassy informed'. It also said that the man has been released from captivity. The back of the Superman shirt read 'RESPECT FOR IRANIAN WOMAN'.

### Woods withdraws

**Nassau:** Tournament host Tiger Woods was forced to pull out of this week's Hero World Challenge golf tournament due to a foot injury that is 'making it difficult to walk'. The 46-year-old golfer last played at the British Open in St. Andrews in July. He was set to return to action after a short hiatus with the PGA Tour-sanctioned event starting at the Albany Golf Course Thursday. The 15-time Major champion said he developed plantar fasciitis, which is an inflammation of a thick band of tissue that connects the heel bone to the toes, in his right foot, while preparing for the annual charity event.

### Career-best for Sen

**New Delhi:** Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen jumped two spots to regain his career-best sixth position in the latest BWF World Rankings announced Tuesday. The 21-year-old from Almora who had a stellar run this season, has 75,024 points from 23 tournaments. Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy remained static at World No.11 and 12 respectively. PV Sindhu, who hasn't played any tournament since the Birmingham CWG due to an ankle injury, also maintained her No.6 ranking. Women's doubles pair of Tiesha Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand broke into the top 20 by jumping two places to World No.19. The pair, winner of the bronze medal at the Birmingham CWG, had 46,020 points from 17 tournaments.

AGENCIES

## 'DEATHS FOR WORLD CUP BETWEEN 400 AND 500' Qatari official's disclosure evokes fresh debate

AGENCIES

**Doha, Nov 29:** A top Qatari official involved in the country's World Cup organisation has put the number of worker deaths for the tournament 'between 400 and 500' for the first time, a drastically higher number than any other previously offered by Doha.

The comment by Hassan al-Thawadi, the secretary-general of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, appeared to come off the cuff during an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan. It also threatened to reinvigorate criticism by human rights groups over the toll of hosting the Middle East's first World Cup for the migrant labour.

In the interview portions of which Morgan posted online, the British journalist asks al-Thawadi: "What is the honest, realistic total do you think of migrant workers who died from - as a result of work they're doing for the World Cup in totality?"

"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," al-Thawadi responds. "I don't have the exact number. That's something that's been discussed," he added.

But that figure hasn't been dis-

cussed publicly by Qatari officials previously. Earlier the released figures put the total number of deaths at 40. They include 37 from what the Qataris describe as non-work incidents such as heart attacks and three from workplace incidents.

In a later statement, the Supreme Committee said al-Thawadi was referring to 'national statistics covering the period of 2014-2020 for all work-related fatalities (414) nationwide in Qatar, covering all sectors and nationalities'.

Since FIFA awarded the tournament to Qatar in 2010, the country has taken some steps to overhaul the country's employment practices. That includes eliminating its so-called kafala employment system, which tied workers to their employers, who had say over whether they could leave their jobs or even the country.

Qatar also has adopted a minimum monthly wage of 1,000 Qatari riyals (\$275) for workers and provided food and housing allowances for employees not receiving those benefits directly from their employers. It also has updated its worker safety rules to prevent deaths.

## Players pray for rain-free day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Christchurch, Nov 29:** Frustrated by the fickle weather, a desperate Indian team would pray for a rain-free final ODI against New Zealand in their bid to finish on an even keel in a series that neither had context nor any major takeaways. There is forecast of scattered showers here Wednesday and nothing can be more irritating than playing a series where the Gen-Next of Indian cricket hardly got any game time to show their prowess.

With the series in line, Shikhar Dhawan and his men would aim to put up an impactful performance at the picturesque Hagley Oval ground, which has traditionally helped the seam bowlers.

The Indian batting looks very good on paper with skipper Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill coming at the top of the order. Gill has shown good form with the bat with scores of 50 and 45 not out in the two games he has played. So has Indian cricket's current blue-eyed boy Suryakumar Yadav.

But the bigger challenge for the Indian batting line-up will be to put up an above par score against New Zealand. And for that, not just the openers or Surya but the likes of Rishabh Pant also needs to step up and be counted.

## Bruno goals sink Uruguay



Cristiano Ronaldo rushes to congratulate Portugal's goalscorer Bruno Fernandes

AGENCIES

**Doha, Nov 29:** Bruno Fernandes scored twice to give Portugal a 2-0 victory over Uruguay here late Monday night and send them into the knock-out stages of the World Cup alongside France and Brazil.

The Manchester United midfielder first scored with an intended cross that went into the opposition goal nine minutes into the second half and then added an injury-time penalty following a handball by Jose Maria Gimenez. The match at the spectacular 89,000-capacity Lusail Stadium also featured the first pitch invader of the Qatar tournament - the man carried messages of support for Ukraine and Iranian women and had a rainbow flag.

With Portugal already through,

Uruguay must now beat Ghana in their final Group H match to stand any chance of also progressing.

Both sides made three changes from their opening matches, with Portugal bringing in veteran Pepe for the injured Danilo Pereira, who suffered cracked ribs during training. Pepe became the third-oldest outfield player in World Cup history.

Portugal dominated the first half, hogging the ball and created several chances, but without ever testing Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet. Uruguay's top forwards, Edinson Cavani and Darwin Nunez were starved of the ball but the South Americans still had the best opportunity of the first period. However, Rodrigo Bentancur's shot was well saved by Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa.

## Defensive lapses worry Indian team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Adelaide, Nov 29:** The Indian men's hockey team will look to address their defensive woes when they take on the world's No.1 side Australia in the third Test here Wednesday. India will certainly be hoping to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in the five-match series. India lost the first two Tests despite taking an early lead due to defensive lapses.

India conceded a last-minute goal to lose the opening Test 4-5. In the second game, they were leading through skipper Harmanpreet Singh's third-minute goal but were blown away in the final quarter and lost 4-7.

"We have gone through the errors we have made in the first two matches. Australia are so quick in converting from the set plays even if they find the slightest of gaps, hence we must structure our defence better," Harmanpreet said.

Both matches were fiercely fought with India and Australia going full throttle in their attack and that resulted in 20 goals. "When it is high-scoring matches and both teams are going full steam in their attack, more penalty corners are created," Harmanpreet said. "While we have managed to create penalty corners (PCs) and also score from those, we have given away quite a few PCs as well which need to be curtailed in the upcoming matches," he added.

## EXCESSIVE PRICE IS ALSO PREVENTING GUZZLERS FROM VISITING SHOPS IN FAN ZONES

# Football fans not missing booze in Qatar

AGENCIES

**Doha, Nov 29:** Soccer fans at the almost alcohol-free World Cup are ready to pay high prices for a beer, a few have tried to smuggle booze into stadiums but most simply accept that drinking is off limits at the first tournament in a Muslim country. FIFA reversed course in mid-November, two days before the first match kicked off, and announced that no alcoholic beer would be sold at stadiums in Qatar where it is an offence to drink alcohol or be drunk in public.

While beer is available at designated World Cup fan zones and in some hotels, the hassle and the cost of finding alcohol - half a litre is sold for 50 Qatari riyals (\$13.70) in fan zones - are simply too much for many supporters from



countries where beer is typically part of the match-day routine.

"For me, it's tradition having a beer, watching a game and enjoying it with friends," said Stefaan Pacquee, a Belgian doctor who travelled here from his home in Sydney, Australia, as he made his way into a stadium Sunday before

Belgium's 0-2 defeat by Morocco. Pacquee said, he had his first beer-and-football experience aged 16 with his father. "So I miss it, but hey, then also I don't miss it much because the weather is beautiful, it's a great atmosphere," Pacquee said.

Germany fan Christian Kopatsch

Due to the unavailability of booze the atmosphere is peaceful and fans of different countries are not fighting against each other

GERMAN FAN

said alcohol was often banned at matches in his home country that were considered to be at high risk of violence among supporters, so the largely dry World Cup was not a huge adjustment for him. He said he also noticed a change in the atmosphere due to the unavailability of beer.

"I think it's more peaceful. You don't have these very drunk people everywhere and people are simply normal and happy," Kopatsch said Tuesday here. He has not even tried to find a drink. "I can do without alcohol for a week," Kopatsch said.

## Domestic cricket: Odisha teams suffer heavy losses

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29:** Aayush Pandey (121 n o, 144b, 15x4) and Sanjeet Desai (114 n o, 109b, 11x4, 1x6) struck brilliant hundreds to help Chhattisgarh defeat Odisha by nine wickets in the national Men's Under-25 cricket tournament at the Saurashtra Cricket Association ground in Rajkot, Tuesday. Odisha had scored 266 all out in 49.4 overs but that did not prove enough. In reply Saurashtra scored 270 for the loss of only one wicket to win the game on a canter.

Subhankar Biswas (100, 104b, 12x4, 1x6) and Sandeep Pattanaik (64, 55b, 3x4, 2x6) batted well for Odisha. However, on a placid batting track the total put up by Odisha was never going to be enough. Vijay Yadav (4/48) and Vishvash Malik (3/41) bowled well for the winners.

In the Cooch Behar Trophy U-19 game against Haryana, Odisha suffered another humiliating loss by an innings and 18 runs Tuesday at the Veer Surendra Sai Stadium in Sambalpur.

Odisha were bowled out for a paltry 194 in the first innings of this four-day game. In reply Haryana had scored a massive 511 taking a first innings lead of 317 runs. In the second innings, the Odisha batters again failed to rise to the occasion and were bowled out for 299. Anshuman Sahoo (63) and Ashirwad Swain (61) were the only batters to offer some resistance. Samant Jhakar (4/16) and Mayank Shandilya (3/79) bowled well to script a facile victory for their side.

When Haryana batted Sarvesh Rohilla (142) and Shandilya (129) had been the standout batters for their team.